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ABSTRACT

This report presents mid 1978 data from a city wide, bilingual opinion and information survey of residents of low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia. Among the key findings presented are the following: (1) the typical survey respondent was black or Latin, 25-44 years of age, married with a family of four, had a high school education or less, and had an income below the Federal lower minimum budget for an urban family; (2) respondents had lived in the District for a long time but faced severe displacement pressures both as renters and homeowners; (3) respondents were primarily a subemployed, full time working population severely affected by inflation, but over a quarter of the available workforce in the neighborhoods surveyed was unemployed; (4) respondents considered youth crime a serious problem, but preferred non-coercive crime prevention activities to stricter law enforcement as a means of reducing District crime, except in the case of drug and alcohol laws; (5) a separate and unequal transportation system exists in low income District neighborhoods, with few respondents owning cars and most expressing dissatisfaction with available bus service; (6) though respondents were concerned parents, they are inadequately involved in neighborhood schools; (7) municipal services are underutilized and perceived as unsatisfactory by survey respondents. (Author/GC)

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SOS '78 -- SPEAK OUT FOR SURVIVAL!

Neighborhood Needs Of

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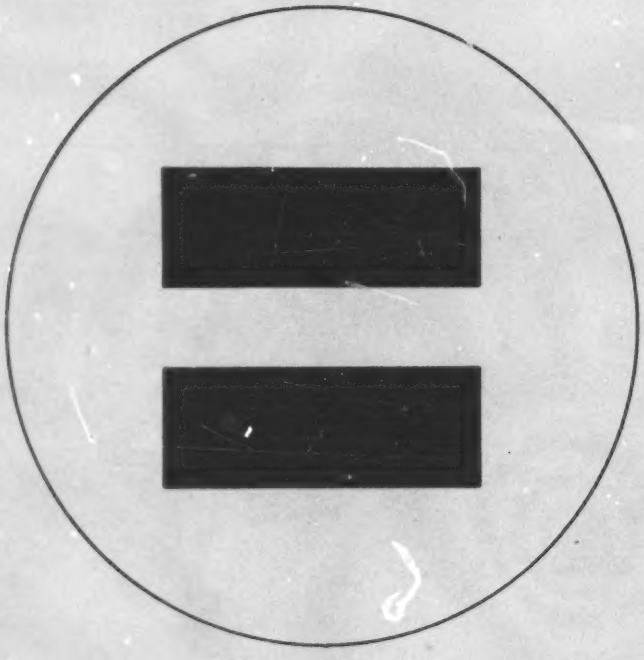

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January, 1979
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I. FOREWORD

SOS '78 is an outgrowth of the Washington Urban League's recognition that problem-solving must be based on up-to-date, hard and definitive data. It is our attempt to extend SOS '76 information to a finer level, by "partializing" some problem areas and "dimensionalizing" our pre-existing data base.

We planned to publish SOS '78 -- Speak Out for Survival! before the 1978 D.C. primary election. We thought such a document would provide candidates and citizens a focus on some critical and sensitive problems facing low income residents of the District of Columbia. In particular we hoped the information would assure a factual data base for candidates as they developed their platforms.

But, as is often the case with efforts undertaken with very limited funds, we were unable to complete all aspects of the processing in that time frame. In spite of the delay in completing the task, we have much to be grateful for.

This activity mobilized some 200 volunteers, who took the time to participate in training sessions, a pre-test of the questionnaire and the actual door-to-door survey. They once again showed that people in this community care about, and will engage in, activities designed to improve their neighborhoods. Some 300 households also understood what we were trying to accomplish, and made their time available to us to share opinions, experiences and concerns about the circumstances in which they live.

We thank our volunteers and survey respondents for their participation. And we commit ourselves to the task of putting this information before decision-makers for the purpose of bettering conditions not only for low income citizens but for all residents of metropolitan Washington.

Published as a new District Government begins its work, SOS '78 should be extremely useful to the new Mayor and his administration in creating a government which is "committed, competent and compassionate." The study supplies the up-to-date, first-hand information necessary to "take a stand," and should help the Mayor create a true partnership between business, labor, professional workers and low income citizens for District change and improvement. In short, SOS '78 will allow this government to be both responsive and responsible.

What began for me six months ago as the Washington Urban League's continued effort to keep our community informed, ends for me as a "going-away present" to Washington, D.C. My hope is that this community, both public and private, will not only demand that the League continue such research services in the future, but make them possible by providing the necessary resources.

John E. Jacob
President
Washington Urban League

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II. SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The typical SOS '78 -- Speak Out for Survival! respondent was: A black or Latino, male or female, 25- to 44-year-old working head of a four person household...married and a long-time District resident and voter...with a high school education or less...and an income below the federal "lower" minimum budget for an urban family of four ($10,481: Autumn, 1977). Respondents also tended to be renters facing displacement...underemployed and in need of job training...forced to reduce essential spending due to inflation...fearful of youth/property crime...dependent upon public transportation they disliked...disaffected public school parents...and dissatisfied consumers of D.C. municipal services.

HOUSING DELIVERY AND DISPLACEMENT

SOS '78 found that black and Latino residents of low income District neighborhoods were long-time District residents proud of their neighborhoods but facing severe displacement pressures, primarily as renters but also as homeowners approached by real estate agents...and that the renters were likely to be displaced due to the already high cost of their present housing (and dissatisfaction with it), rent increases and evictions, and inadequate help from the D.C. rent control and rent supplement programs. Homeowners on the other hand were strongly resistant to displacement.

SOS '78 also found considerable recent residential movement into low income neighborhoods, both by respondents and by persons buying homes (over a quarter of whom were white)...and concluded in view of homeowners' unwillingness to sell that it must be absentee landlords and owners of property temporarily taken off the market who were upgrading housing stocks, selling property to newcomers and/or displacing low income tenants.

Data Highlights

- 72% of respondents had been District residents for ten years or more, and 73% expressed "some" or "a great deal of" pride in their neighborhoods.
- 69% of respondents were renters.
- 44% of respondents thought it was likely they would move in the next two years; and 30% had already moved in the last two years, 77% of them from elsewhere in the District.
- 43% of those who had moved in the last two years cited rent increases, evictions or urban renewal as their reasons for doing so.
- 66% of homeowners had been asked to sell their homes, 83% of them by real estate agents; but 98% said they would not sell and 86% were planning home improvements.
- 68% of renters were paying over $150 per month for rent; 47% thought they weren't getting their money's worth; and 58% said high cost was their biggest problem in finding housing.
- 88% of renters who knew about them, hadn't used the D.C. rent supplement programs; only 35% of renters said the D.C. Rent Control Bill had helped them.
- 77% of homeowners reported new families on their blocks in the last year...76% of the new families were reported to be "persons who bought homes" or both homeowners and renters (compared to 15% reported to be renters only)...and 28% of the new families were reported to be white.

JOB DELIVERY TO WORKERS

SOS '78 found that black and Latino respondents in low income District neighborhoods were primarily a sub-employed, full-time working poor severely crippled by inflation -- but that over a quarter of the available workforce in these neighborhoods was unemployed, and that a third of the unemployed had given up actively seeking jobs. The great majority of the unemployed had been jobless over a year...weren't receiving unemployment insurance or other income security services...claimed considerable skills (nearly half in white collar occupations)...preferred informal means of job-hunting to such referral sources as the D.C. Employment Service...and sought job training with guaranteed jobs on completion of training.

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SOS '78 also found that the great majority of respondents favored preferential D.C. contract awards to firms who agreed to hire and train the unemployed, and wanted D.C. government to bring light industry and business into their neighborhoods.

Data Highlights

- 69% of respondents were employed; 24% were unemployed; and the remaining 7% said they were "not looking for work" and were retired, or full-time housewives, students, the ill or disabled.
- 91% of the employed worked full-time; yet 61% of all respondents had reported incomes below the federal "lower" minimum budget for an urban family of four ($10,481: Autumn, 1977).
- 95% of respondents had to reduce spending due to high costs, including (73%) such essential spending as food, clothing, electricity, heat and gas.
- 63% of respondents thought job training linked to guaranteed jobs was "the best way to develop jobs in D.C."
- 94% of respondents favored preferential D.C. contract awards to firms who agreed to hire and train the unemployed and underskilled.
- 94% of respondents said D.C. government should encourage light industry and business to locate in low income neighborhoods.

Of the 24% of respondents who were unemployed but ready and able to work:

- 33% were discouraged workers not actively seeking jobs.
- 89% were not receiving unemployment insurance.
- 74% had been jobless over a year.
- 46% reported white collar skills.
- 67% of their job hunting took place by word-of-mouth and other informal means, and not through data-keeping referral sources.

CRIME REDUCTION IN LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

SOS '78 found that black and Latino residents of low income District neighborhoods considered youth crime a serious problem, and were most afraid of robbery, burglary and drug abuse. Overwhelming majorities preferred non-coercive crime prevention activities to stricter law enforcement as a means of reducing District crime, but did favor better enforcement of drug and alcohol laws. Among crime prevention activities, residents preferred "more jobs for youth", "programs that support and work with families", "improved police/community relations" and "educational programs that include crime prevention".

SOS '78 also found the majority of residents willing to give non-violent offenders access to their families outside the detention center...and in favor of having police officers be District residents assigned to neighborhoods on the basis of race/ethnic identity.

Data Highlights

- 97% of respondents felt youth crime was a serious problem in D.C.
- 69% feared property crimes and drug abuse, as compared with 21% who feared so-called "crimes of passion", murder and rape.
- As solutions to crime, only 10% of blacks and 17% of Latinos sought "increased police patrols" in their neighborhoods. The balance of both groups preferred "more jobs for youth" and other non-coercive crime prevention activities.
- 72% of respondents did favor better enforcement of laws restricting youth access to drugs and alcohol.
- Among specific anti-crime measures, respondents preferred (in order) "programs that support and work with families" (32%), "improved police/community relations" (24%) and "educational crime prevention programs (20%).
- 78% of respondents were willing to give non-violent offenders access to families and neighborhoods outside the detention center.
- 68% of respondents thought police officers should live in the District; and 58% thought black or Latino police officers were "better equipped to deal with crime" in their neighborhoods "than white police officers".

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS

SOS '78 found a separate and unequal transportation system in low income District neighborhoods -- the majority of whose residents walked or rode the bus because they did not own cars and "never" used the new Metro subway. Car owners preferred to use them to get to work or to shop. A significant minority used car pools to get to work. But the greatest number used the bus daily during rush hours to get to work.

SOS '78 also found extensive dissatisfaction with bus services. High percentages of respondents thought D.C. public (bus) transportation was "slow" or liked "nothing" about it at all, and thought bus crime was a serious problem. Significantly, very few residents use buses to shop, even though their only alternative was to walk to more expensive neighborhood stores.

Data Highlights

- 52% of respondents did not own private cars.

- 76% of respondents "never" used the new Metro subway.
- 48% of respondents used the bus to get to work (including 4% who used both bus and subway), compared with lower percentages who drove cars, walked, used car pools (a significant 7%), or used the subway alone.
- 48% of respondents used their cars for grocery shopping, 38% used them for getting to work (and 48% of respondents owned cars).
- 52% of bus riders used the bus daily, and 74% of bus riders used it during rush hours.
- 50% of respondents most disliked the fact that D.C. public (bus) transportation was "slow"; 25% liked "nothing" about it at all.
- 91% of respondents thought bus crime was a serious problem.
- Only 12% of respondents used the bus for grocery shopping (compared with 35% who walked), even though 69% of respondents thought food cost more in their local supermarkets than elsewhere.

PARENTS' ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

SOS '78 found that black and Latino low income District neighborhood parents of children currently enrolled in the public schools were concerned, potential activists -- but inadequately involved by neighborhood schools in activities designed to improve their overall quality of education. Parents were apt to visit their children's schools whether invited or not, and to be involved in PTA's and other parent-focused groups. They were greatly concerned about their children's safety in school and a perceived lack of educational materials for each class, and also felt they "needed assistance" in helping their children in school.

But SOS '78 also found that most parents were invited to their children's schools only to attend special events, or to discuss grade and discipline problems with teachers. Negligible numbers were invited for other purposes, or talked with principals or counselors.

Data Highlights

- 51% of respondents were parents with children currently enrolled in D.C. public schools.
- More parents (93%) visited their children's schools than had been invited to do so (78%).
- 41% of parents were members of PTA's or other parent-focused groups, and 61% described their involvement as "moderate" to "very active".
- 51% of parents feared for their children's safety in school.
- 34% of parents thought their children did not have a book and enough other materials for each class.
- 45% of parents "needed assistance" in helping their children in school.
- 93% of parents who visited their children's schools either attended special events or discussed grade and discipline problems; 84% talked only with teachers on those occasions.
- Only 7% of parents were invited for "other" reasons, and only 16% talked with principals or counselors on those occasions.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE PRIORITIES

SOS '78 found that black and Latino residents of low income District neighborhoods most sought improvement in services of the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development and employment counseling services of the D.C. Labor Department...and that only half were satisfied with health services of the D.C. Department of Human Resources, and garbage/-trash collection by the D.C. Department of Environmental Services.

SOS '78 also found that over three-quarters of residents had not used D.C. government human services (including housing and employment counseling) in the last six months. Users reported that it took too long to receive them, and that they weren't treated with courtesy and respect. Most respondents overall were not informed of the services to which they were entitled.

Data Highlights

- 83% of respondents rated the housing upkeep/maintenance services of the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development...and also the employment counseling services of the D.C. Labor Department...only "fair" to "very poor".
- 54% of respondents rated health services of the D.C. Department of Human Resources only "fair" to "very poor".
- 50% rated garbage/trash collection by the D.C. Department of Environmental Services only "fair" to "very poor".
- 72% of respondents had not used D.C. government human services, including housing and employment counseling, in the last six months.
- 50% of those who used D.C. government human services had to wait over a month to receive them.
- 45% of those who used D.C. government human services felt they were not treated "with courtesy and respect".
- 68% of respondents either did not know the D.C. government human services to which they were entitled, or only "some" of them.

III. SAVING D.C. FOR ITS RESIDENTS
Recommendations For Low Income Neighborhood Revitalization

(A Summary From The Narrative)

The low income neighborhood concerns revealed by SOS '78 -- Speak Out For Survival! foretell either these neighborhoods' continued decay...the displacement of their populations and their re-creation elsewhere...or their renewal for the long-time residents who live in them. A community which denies housing, jobs, safety, education, transportation and public services to either its neighborhoods or their residents, marks both for destruction. Nor can Washington, D.C. expect to revitalize low income District neighborhoods for their residents piecemeal. Only a comprehensive, coordinated attack on all key elements and systems of neighborhood life can redeem them.

The Washington Urban League therefore offers as a whole the following plan for low income neighborhood revitalization...and urges its consideration, coordination and fast implementation by D.C. government, the voluntary sector and the business community.

HOUSING

It is recommended that the Mayor declare, and the D.C. Housing and Community Development Department implement, a strong anti-displacement policy...that the Department provide several key currently transitional neighborhoods with the full range of available programs, resources and techniques for encouraging revitalization and averting displacement, and launch a city-wide "Save Our Neighborhoods" campaign using them as models...and that among programs and techniques used should be D.C. Housing Finance Agency legislation to construct low and moderate income housing...D.C. Zoning Commission guidelines to discourage upgrading at the expense of low cost rental or single family housing...coordination with the Office of Business and Economic Development to encourage compatible commercial/light industry development in the neighborhoods...public and private efforts to enlarge low and moderate income home improvement, rehabilitation and ownership...and intensive public information and housing counseling programs on several specific issues.

EMPLOYMENT

It is recommended that the Prime Sponsor activate the Private Industry Council under Title VII amendments to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973, with a focus on job training and guaranteed jobs on completion of training...the D.C. government and business jointly establish Work Evaluation/Work Adjustment Centers in low income neighborhoods...that D.C. contractors be required to file "Employment Impact Statements"...that area governments adopt the National Urban League's "Hidden Unemployment Index" as an interim means of estimating true unemployment...and that concerned groups advocate at the national level both to improve definitions of unemployment for data-collection purposes, and to overhaul the nation's outmoded unemployment insurance program to provide stipends for subsidized job training and jobs to long-time discouraged job-seekers.

CRIME

It is recommended that D.C. government establish Neighborhood Anti-Crime Centers developed by and staffed with residents of low income neighborhoods...that the Centers be located in housing rehabilitated by the D.C. Housing Finance Agency, provide jobs for residents to organize anti-crime programs, involve youth and ex-offenders, and offer interface between residents and the Police Department...that non-violent offenders have access to their families through the Centers...that staff of the Centers and other community organizations be trained as advocates to process citizen complaints against the Police Department...that CETA jobs be set aside for youth at the Centers and elsewhere...that D.C. government encourage police officers to live in the District by making housing available in selected neighborhoods...that substance abuse education, treatment and enforcement programs be increased...that non-

profit programs which support and work with families and troubled youth be increased...and that the D.C. Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis launch a city-wide public education program and neighborhood forums on crime issues.

TRANSPORTATION

It is recommended that Metro improve bus services to low income neighborhoods as a complement to the subway...conduct low income neighborhood home interview surveys to determine the special needs of this population ...increase low income citizen participation in transportation planning...provide mini-bus shuttles to major commercial arteries from neighborhoods not served by bus routes...and work to improve safety on buses.

EDUCATION

It is recommended that D.C.P.S. establish voluntary contracts at neighborhood schools which obligate students to learn, teachers to teach, administrators to administer and parents to get involved in their children's education...that the D.C. Board of Education, the Mayor's special assistant for education, media and concerned institutions co-sponsor Public Education Forums in low income neighborhoods...that neighborhood schools set up workshops for parents on how to help their children in school...that parent-focused groups at neighborhood schools be wholly re-examined and where necessary replaced by groups more effective in involving parents...and that neighborhood schools make greater efforts to identify parents' concerns about the quality of education provided in the schools, and also act on their public safety concerns.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

It is recommended that D.C. government have low income neighborhoods periodically and comprehensively surveyed to establish priorities for public services and provide data for municipal budget requests...that a Council for Low Income Neighborhood Revitalization be created as a budgeted, staffed advisory body to the D.C. City Council, to translate survey findings into legislative recommendations...that D.C. public information on available services be increased, systematized and coordinated, budgeted for outreach through Rights Information Centers in low income neighborhoods, and accompanied by a 24-hour "Human Services Hot-Line"...that D.C. Department of Human Resources retrain its personnel for more professional performance and to strengthen their advocacy functions in behalf of clients.

LATINO CONCERNS

It is recommended that D.C. government and the private sector regard Latino organizations and individuals as the best and ultimate source for any interpretation of SOS '78 Latino findings, and seek their consultation before taking Latino-related action on the recommendations in this study. However, since SOS '78 uncovered some obvious and critical needs of Latino residents, the Washington Urban League also recommends:

- That D.C. government increase bilingual services, communications and personnel overall, but especially in the provision of housing and employment counseling, assistance to Latino parents to help their children in school, and assistance to Latinos seeking to use D.C. human services.
- That the D.C. Housing and Community Development Department ensure that Latino residents are informed of the D.C. rent supplement programs...and work to ameliorate the negative impact of Metro on housing costs and consequent displacement in Latino neighborhoods.

- That D.C. government and the private sector recognize a special need to reduce subemployment among Latinos, who appear more likely than blacks both to have jobs and to have incomes below the federal "lower" minimum budget for an urban family of four.

- That concerned organizations and D.C. government launch voter education and registration drives for Latinos overall, and recent Latino residents in particular.

- That in Latino neighborhoods, D.C. government and the Metropolitan Police Department tailor crime prevention and law enforcement activities, including police/community relations, to the special needs, interests and problems of the Latino population.

- That improved bus services to Latinos mandate increased Metro use of bilingual communications, and increased police surveillance on buses serving Latino neighborhoods.

- That D.C.P.S. neighborhood schools with substantial Latino populations make greater efforts to involve Latino parents in parent-focused groups and school activities in general.

- That the D.C. Department of Human Resources make extra efforts to advise Latinos of the full range of their entitlements to D.C. human services...to assist their application for needed services...and to deliver such services in Spanish.

IV. INTRODUCTION

This report presents mid-1978 data from SOS '78 -- Speak Out for Survival!, a city-wide, door-to-door, bilingual, opinion and information survey of residents of low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia. SOS '78 was conceived, planned, tested, implemented, tabulated, analyzed and published by the Washington Urban League, Inc., a member agency of the United Way of the National Capital Area.

One of 114 affiliates of the National Urban League, Inc., the Washington Urban League is an interracial, non-profit, non-partisan community service and civil rights organization, using the tools and methods of social work, economics, law and other disciplines to secure equal opportunities in all sectors of society for black Americans and other minorities.

SOS '78 conception and planning, design and methodology, the questionnaire, field implementation, data compilation and analysis were the joint product of a Steering Committee of eight staff members and consultants of the Washington Urban League. Consultancy was provided by Robert Beasley, Dr. James McGhee and Thomas R. O'Neal. Keypunching and data processing were provided by Afro American Datanamics. Word processing of the report was provided by ManTech of New Jersey Corporation.

Survey Goals

SOS '78 is the second in a series of in-depth studies of low income minority neighborhood opinion and living conditions conducted by the Washington Urban League. A predecessor, SOS '76, published in July, 1976, is fundamental to and described later in this report. Its sample of 1,000 households in 18 U.S. Census tracts provided the first comprehensive data on the socio-economic status, and real survival conditions of, the low income third of central city population available to area social planners and decision-makers.

SOS '78 -- Speak Out for Survival! falls within a major category of Washington Urban League programs termed "Action-Oriented Research". Its declared purpose is "to challenge decision-makers, social planners, funding sources and the public to satisfy unmet requirements for the racial progress and equal opportunity of blacks and other minorities, and to provide the basis for sound planning and investment in social programs."

Thus the studies are designed to accomplish the following goals:

- To learn what minority residents of low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia want to see done to improve their lives and living conditions, how they want to see that accomplished, and what their experiences are in the problem areas confronting them;

- To provide researched data (shareable with other institutions) for systematic League planning of programs and services to low income citizens;

- To maintain public concern for low income citizens' needs;...to demonstrate their importance to community planning and decision-making, as well as their right to quality services and equal opportunity;

- To communicate their needs and entitlements to Washington metropolitan area social planners, public and private decision-makers, and responsible community, municipal and federal agencies;

- To offer alternatives to the data of traditional public and private research agencies and projects, and to their objectives and procedures for eliciting representative information from area citizens;

- To gather and publish survey findings in order to substantiate requests for funding based on them -- by the League or any other agency wishing to tackle the problems.

SOS '78 also had the following more specific objectives:

- To provide more detailed information on problems the earlier SOS '76 survey had found important to low income District households;

- To delineate recent changes in low income neighborhood conditions owing to housing displacement, new public transportation, increased unemployment and other factors;

- To publish timely social research allowing public and private policy-makers and citizens to make informed judgments about civic issues, and to recommend realistic solution to problems endangering low income neighborhoods and their residents.

Survey Background

SOS '78 grew out of a recognition that more detailed information was needed on critical low income neighborhood priorities and problems identified three years earlier by SOS '76, which is still the most comprehensive and current survey of its kind available to local researchers and social planners.

But key problems of low income citizens had not been ameliorated since SOS '76 was conducted. In addition, some problems had been aggravated by inflation and increased unemployment, and others by new phenomena related to District revitalization: housing displacement and the location of a new Metro subway outside low income neighborhoods.

Thus SOS '78 was designed to sustain attention to unmet needs of low income neighborhoods, while bringing public and private decision-makers to new levels of programmatic action with a detailed focus on neighborhoods' most relevant current concerns. Appendix B to this report highlights some important data from SOS '76, and explains how the new survey's content was based on its findings.

Extensive public and private use has been made of Speak Out for Survival! data for social programming by national and local government and non-profit agencies...in basic research by academic and private research institutions...by media reporting the concerns of predominantly black Washington, D.C....in municipal legislation developed by the D.C. City Council...and for national capital planning by the D.C. Municipal Planning Bureau. SOS '76 data was used in the "Bill To Establish Goals And Policies For The District Of Columbia", submitted by Mayor Walter E. Washington to the D.C. City Council in November, 1977.

Also since SOS '76 publication, Urban League methodology for eliciting opinion and information from low income households has been studied or adopted by other Urban Leagues or municipal planners in New Orleans, La.; Los Angeles, Cal.; Pittsburgh, Pal.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Columbus, Oh.; Louisville, Kn.; Jackson, Mi.; Pontiac, Mich.; and Fort Lauderdale, Fl.

Notes on Table Interpretation

All tables present findings from a survey of 300 households conducted by random sample of every third household in six major separate, low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia on Saturday, June 3, 1978 with a follow-up survey on Tuesday, June 6, to complete the sample. Covering nine U.S. Census tracts, the sample included the areas known as "Adams Morgan", "Mount Pleasant", the "14th Street Corridor", "Northeast Capital Hill", "Old Uniontown" (Anacostia) and "Fort Stanton" (Anacostia).

The Appendix to this report provides background on survey conduct and methodology.

It should be noted that in some instances the data is not presented by race. Where data is shown by "Total" only, the number of responses by race/ethnic identity (Black and/or Latino) was too small to warrant an interpretation. For example in Table 2 Latino homeowners comprised only 4% of the total Latino sample, and the smallness of the N invalidated the interpretation of findings for Latino homeowners. For such questions Latino findings can only be validly and reliably interpreted in the context of a "Total" population.

V. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SOS '78 RESPONDENTS

Table 1 presents a demographic profile of SOS '78 respondents. SOS '78 surveyed 300 heads of households in areas designated as low income by the U.S. Census Bureau. The majority of the respondents were black (81%) and Latino (18%), the balance being white and "other" (Table 1.1).

The male/female breakdown was approximately equal. Females represented 51% of the respondents and males 49%. Among blacks, females comprised 53% of the respondents and males 47%. For Latinos the distribution was markedly different -- 61% male and 39% female. Since the attitudes of Latino respondents tended to coincide with those of blacks, the difference in distribution does not appear to have affected survey findings (Table 1.2).

All age groups over 18 were represented. Respondents range from under 20 to over 55 years of age. The majority (54%) hovered around the 25 to 44-year-old range. There were relatively more older adults from 45 to 55 years of age and above (34%), than young adults under 20 to 24 years of age (10%). The same distribution prevailed by race/ethnic identity (Table 1.3).

Forty-four percent of respondents had no high school education or only "some" high school education. Thirty-five percent were high school graduates, and only 20% had "some" college or were college graduates. These breakdowns prevailed regardless of race/ethnic identity (Table 1.4).

Approximately half (45%) of heads of households were married, and the next largest category were single (23%), the balance being widowed, separated, divorced or living in common law relationships (Table 1.5). Average household size was 3.84 persons (Table 1.6). Both blacks and Latinos shared these characteristics.

Nearly 40% of heads of households reported incomes below $6,999. (Based on year-old figures, the official U.S. Census "poverty threshold" for a non-farm family of four was $6,191 in 1978.)....Overall, 61% of respondents reported incomes below $10,000. (The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimated "lower" minimum budget for an urban family of four was $10,481 for Autumn, 1977.)....Thirty-eight percent of respondents reported incomes over $10,000 (Table 1.7).

A markedly higher percentage of Latino heads of households (83%) than black heads of households (56%) reported incomes below $10,000, the greatest number of Latinos falling in the $7,000 to $8,999 category (33%), and the greatest number of blacks falling in the "under $5,000" category (27%) (Table 1.7).

When total income from all family members was considered, appreciably more families (53%) reported incomes over $10,000 per year. Latinos again showed a greater likelihood (66%) than blacks (40%) to fall below $10,000 a year in household income (Table 1.8).

Yet Latinos (82%) were more likely than blacks (66%) to be employed. Overall, 69% of SOS '78 household heads were employed in full or part-time jobs (Tables 1.9 and 3.1), and a very high 24% were unemployed -- not including 7% who were unemployed but "not looking for work" (Table 3.1).

SOS '78 respondents received a number of income security services. The data in Table 1.9 show the distribution of services they received, not the total number of persons receiving services. This was a "Check All That Apply" question, so that a head of household could for example identify "Food Stamps" and "Medicare" in addition to "Aid To Families With Dependent Children".

Of SOS '78 respondents receiving income security services, only 12% were receiving Aid To Families With Dependent Children. More were receiving Medicare or Medicaid (27%) and Food Stamps (23%). Though 55 SOS '78 respondents were 55 years of age or older (19% of all respondents), 35 were receiving Social Security but only five were receiving Old Age Assistance

(14% and 2% respectively of persons receiving income security services) (Tables 1.3 and 1.9).

The majority of survey respondents were long-time District residents and voters. Seventy-two percent had lived in the District for at least ten years, and 59% were registered to vote. Among Latinos, however, only 10% were registered voters; only 18% were long-time residents; and 52% had been residents for three years or less (Tables 1.10 and 1.11).

Subgroup Factors

SOS '78 identified some relationships between citizens' attitudes and such demographic variables as age, sex, education and income. The extensive cross-tabulations of these data are not presented in tables in this report. Only marginal differences occured among citizens' attitudes by age, sex and education.

However, when analysis was made of attitudinal differences by three income categories -- "Under $7,000", "$7,000 to $10,000" and "Over $10,000" -- it was notable that income level factors played a small part in the attitudes of low income neighborhood black and Latino respondents. If anything, the data suggest that attitudes were shared whether incomes were under $7,000 or over $10,000.

The exceptions to this rule usually involved questions directly related to earnings. Thus when respondents were asked to identify their biggest problem in finding housing, those with incomes below $7,000 were most likely to select "finding housing I can afford" as their biggest problem. In another instance the same income group were more likely than persons over $10,000 to support guaranteed jobs after training as the best strategy for job development.

But in most cases the uniformity of opinions was noteworthy. Issues of neighborhood pride, the impact of inflation, preferred crime prevention programs, ratings of public education and municipal services, transportation patterns...these showed marked similarities of response regardless of income, and suggested that the experiences of low income neighborhood residents were much shared.

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TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SOS '78 RESPONDENTS
(By Race)

SOS '78 --
SPEAK OUT FOR SURVIVAL!

VITAL FACTORS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
1.1 Race/Ethnic Identity						
Black	224	(81)				
Latino	50	(18)				
White	3	(1)				
Total	277	(100)				
1.2 Sex						
Male	133	(49)	100	(47)	30	(61)
Female	137	(51)	112	(53)	19	(39)
Total	270	(100)	212	(100)	49	(100)
1.3 Age						
Under 20	9	(3)	8	(4)	1	(2)
20 - 24	19	(7)	14	(6)	3	(7)
25 - 29	38	(13)	26	(12)	8	(19)
30 - 34	39	(14)	29	(13)	7	(16)
35 - 39	41	(14)	27	(12)	10	(23)
40 - 44	38	(13)	32	(15)	5	(12)
45 - 49	21	(7)	17	(8)	3	(7)
50 - 54	24	(8)	20	(9)	2	(5)
55 and Over	55	(19)	45	(21)	4	(9)
Total	284	(98)	218	(100)	43	(100)
1.4 Educational Level						
8th Grade or Less	50	(18)	32	(15)	14	(29)
Some High School	73	(26)	59	(28)	7	(14)
High School Graduate	98	(35)	73	(35)	19	(39)
Some College	28	(10)	23	(11)	4	(8)
College Graduate	27	(10)	20	(10)	4	(8)
Other	4	(1)	3	(1)	1	(2)
Total	280	(100)	210	(100)	49	(100)
1.5 Marital Status						
Single	67	(23)	50	(23)	10	(21)
Widowed	24	(8)	20	(9)	1	(2)
Separated	28	(10)	22	(10)	5	(11)
Divorced	18	(6)	12	(6)	5	(11)
Married	130	(45)	97	(45)	22	(47)
Common Law	19	(7)	12	(6)	4	(8)
Total	286	(99)	214	(99)	47	(100)
1.6 Average Household Size	3.84		3.92		3.50	

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

VITAL FACTORS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
1.7 Income of Head of Household						
Under $5,000	73	(28)	52	(27)	13	(31)
$5,000 - $6,999	29	(11)	20	(10)	5	(12)
$7,000 - $8,999	42	(16)	27	(14)	14	(33)
$9,000 - $9,999	15	(6)	9	(5)	3	(7)
$10,000 - $11,999	27	(10)	24	(12)	3	(7)
$12,000 - $13,999	35	(13)	28	(14)	4	(10)
$14,000 - $15,999	14	(5)	13	(6)	-	-
$16,000 and Over	26	(10)	23	(12)	-	-
Total	261	(99)	196	(100)	42	(100)
1.8 Total Household Income Level (All Members)						
Under $5,000	54	(21)	38	(19)	11	(27)
$5,000 - $6,999	23	(9)	15	(7)	5	(12)
$7,000 - $8,999	28	(11)	17	(9)	8	(20)
$9,000 - $9,999	13	(5)	9	(5)	3	(7)
$10,000 - $11,999	21	(8)	17	(9)	4	(10)
$12,000 - $13,999	22	(8)	17	(9)	5	(12)
$14,000 - $15,999	22	(8)	15	(7)	-	-
$16,000 - $17,999	24	(9)	24	(12)	4	(10)
$18,000 and Over	52	(20)	46	(23)	1	(2)
Total	259	(99)	198	(100)	41	(100)
1.9 Income Sources of Head of Household						
Job(s)	190	(69)	134	(66)	40	(82)
Income Security Services						
Old Age Assistance	5	(2)	2	(1)	2	(7)
Aid to Families with Dependent Children	31	(12)	26	(13)	2	(7)
Food Stamps	60	(23)	46	(23)	7	(26)
Disability Assistance	12	(5)	10	(5)	1	(4)
Social Security	35	(14)	27	(14)	3	(11)
Medicaid or Medicare	68	(27)	56	(28)	4	(15)
Unemployment Compensation	23	(9)	14	(7)	6	(22)
Veterans' Benefits	10	(4)	8	(4)	1	(4)
Other	11	(4)	10	(5)	1	(4)
Total	255	(100)	199	(100)	27	(100)

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

VI. HOUSING DELIVERY AND DISPLACEMENT

Table 2 depicts the housing delivery and displacement patterns of District of Columbia residents living in predominantly low income neighborhoods -- which to varying degrees were transitional racially, economically or both: Adams Morgan, Mt. Pleasant, Northeast Capital Hill, the 14th Street Corridor, and to lesser extents Old Uniontown (Anacostia) and Fort Stanton, Anacostia.

The large majority, more than two-thirds (69%) of respondents were found to be renters rather than homeowners (31%). Practically all Latinos (96%) were renters compared to 65% of blacks (Table 2.1).

Displacement Pressures

Both groups were experiencing great pressure to move. An extraordinary two-thirds (66%) of all homeowners indicated that they had been approached to sell their homes. The great majority (83%) had been approached by real estate agents (Tables 2.19 and 2.20).

Similarly, nearly a third (30%) of all respondents -- and 46% of Latinos -- had just moved into a survey neighborhood in the last two years (Table 2.2). Over three-quarters (77%) had moved from within the District -- not from the suburbs -- particularly from or within the Southeast, Northeast or Northwest. The 16% of respondents who had moved from Maryland or Virginia were Latinos (Table 2.3).

There was a marked similarity between the percentage of respondents who felt moving in the next two years was "almost certain/very likely" (36%) and those who had moved into survey neighborhoods in the last two years (30%) (Tables 2.8 and 2.2). This raises the question whether relocating and displaced households are more likely to move within the District than into the suburbs, particularly when long-term residency patterns are taken into account. Three-quarters (72%) of all respondents, and 83% of blacks, had lived in the District ten years or more (Table 1.10).

In any event the data suggested a low income neighborhood population that was markedly mobile. Also, the chance that present residents will move in the next two years is relatively certain. Only 38% thought moving was "not likely". Eighteen percent were "not sure". And the balance or 44% of respondents thought moving was "almost certain/very likely" or "fairly certain" (Table 2.8).

Though both homeowners and renters experienced severe pressure to move, the two groups reacted in different ways to this pressure. Those who did move were more likely to be renters. Of those who had moved in the last two years, 43% cited renter's reasons for doing so: rent increases, evictions or urban renewal. Renters were also included among the 56% of respondents who said they had moved "to live in a better house/apartment" (Table 2.4).

On the other hand, 98% of homeowner respondents said they would not sell their homes, and 87% did not feel they would be forced to sell their homes (Tables 2.21 and 2.22).

Housing Costs

Renters' vulnerability to displacement was aggravated by the cost of housing, which in turn made it difficult for respondents to find adequate replacement housing they could afford. Table 2.15 suggests that a great many low income renters are paying over one-quarter of their income for rent. Sixty-eight percent of renters were paying over $150 per month. Yet 61% of all respondents had incomes under $10,000 per year (Table 1.7), or net monthly incomes of $700 after taxes, assuming a single wage earner and three dependents.

In spite of high costs, 64% of renters felt they could afford their present rent (Table 2.16). Yet nearly half (47%) of respondents were "dissatisfied" or "very dissatisfied" that they were getting their money's worth in their present house/apartment (Table 2.14). And the majority of respondents (58%) said "finding housing I can

afford" was their biggest problem in finding housing (Table 2.9).

Government Programs

The D.C. Rent Control Bill helped over a third of low income neighborhood renters keep their house/apartment. Though the majority (65%) said this was not the case, a significant number (35%), and 43% of Latinos, said it was (Table 2.18). Had these 55 respondents instead been forced to move due to rent increases in the last two years, the percentage of SOS '78 respondents reporting displacement would have jumped from 30% to 50% (Table 2.2).

On the other hand, the overwhelming majority (88%) of renters had not used D.C. Rent Supplement programs, even though a substantial number (44%) were aware of them. Latinos (26%) were much less likely than blacks (50%) to be aware of the programs (Table 2.17).

Newcomers to Neighborhoods

Parallelling indications that property owners in low income neighborhoods are under intense pressure to sell from real estate agents (Table 2.19), the majority of newcomers to low income neighborhoods were reported to be buying homes. With 77% of homeowners reporting new families on their blocks in the last year (Table 2.5), nearly half (45%) of the new families were said to have been "people who bought homes", compared with only 15% said to have been renters but 31% said to have been "both of the above" (Table 2.7).

Although the majority of the newcomers (homeowners and renters) were reported to be black, over a quarter (28%) were reported to be white. This is very significant since the neighborhoods until recently were all-black.

Yet as previously mentioned (Tables 2.21 and 2.22) low income neighborhood homeowners interviewed in their own homes were strongly resistant to selling them. Eighty-six percent were also planning home improvements (Table 2.23), and at least half (51%) of those who had sought to make home improvements had the private resources to do so (Table 2.24). In partial explanation of the latter, well over a quarter (29%) of those who had sought home improvement loans from banks, savings and loan association or the government, did not receive them (Tables 2.24 and 2.25).

Furthermore, with practically all homeowners (87%) not expecting to be "forced" to move (Table 2.22), it was significant that no respondents cited "property tax increases" as their reasons for moving in the last two years (Table 2.4).

Neighborhood Pride

SOS '78 respondents showed a very strong sense of belonging and responsibility for the maintenance of their homes and neighborhoods. This was all the more striking in that 69% were renters (Table 2.1)...30% had recently moved into their neighborhoods (Table 2.2)...44% expected to move again (Table 2.8)...and 47% were dissatisfied with the cost and quality of their accommodations (Table 2.14).

Even so, 73% of respondents said they had "some" or "a great deal of" pride in their neighborhoods (Table 2.10). The great majority (83%) said the physical condition of their neighborhood was "important" or "very important" to them (Table 2.12). Similar majorities thought residents, or residents and landlords equally, had responsibility for building maintenance (71%)...and that residents, or residents and D.C. government equally, had responsibility for neighborhood maintenance (81%) (Tables 2.11 and 2.13).

In that a greater proportion of blacks (83%) than Latinos (18%) were long-time District residents (Table 1.10), it was not surprising that blacks (67%) tended to show a stronger commitment to preserving the physical condition of their neighborhoods (Table 2.12). Blacks (33%) also were more likely than Latinos (18%) to consider residents (not landlords) responsible for building maintenance (Table 2.11).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Residents of low income (and to varying degrees transitional) neighborhoods of the District of Columbia are under intense pressure to sell or move from neighborhoods in which they have a great deal of pride, for which they feel a strong maintenance responsibility, and in which they are likely to have been long-time residents.

These pressures to move are experienced differently by homeowners and renters, and the two groups respond differently to the pressures. Homeowners who live in their own homes stand a strong chance of being approached by private real estate agents, and are unlikely to sell their homes at least as long as property tax increases do not force those on limited incomes to do so. In fact low income neighborhood homeowners show considerable intent and ability to invest in home improvements, though over a quarter have

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difficulty obtaining bank, savings and loan association or government help to do so.

Renters on the other hand show strong displacement patterns and a high degree of vulnerability to this due to many factors. Black and Latino renters are not only very likely to move, but have already moved in considerable numbers into low income neighborhoods from elsewhere within the District -- not from the suburbs. (Latinos have moved from the suburbs, however.) In view of long-time residency habits, it is probable that future movers will also prefer to relocate in the District.

Renters' vulnerability to displacement is due to:...the disproportionately high cost of rental housing they are already experiencing, coupled with dissatisfaction that they are getting their money's worth...rent increases, evictions and urban renewal...and inadequate use of the D.C. government's rent supplement program. Though the D.C. Rent Control Bill is helping as many as a third of low income neighborhood renters to keep their homes and apartments, it is not helping the majority to do so.

Despite high costs a majority of renters say they can afford their present housing. This may reflect their willingness to adjust to disproportionate current rents and inadequate housing -- rather than face the difficulty of finding replacements which are expected to cost more and result in less adequate accommodations.

Homeowners in low income neighborhoods report, however, that the majority of newcomers to their blocks are people who are buying homes, not renters...and that over a quarter of the newcomers are white. Since the homeowners who were interviewed in their own homes were practically all unwilling to sell, and did not expect to be forced to do so, it must be absentee landlords and owners of property temporarily off the market who are, in general, selling the housing being purchased by neighborhood newcomers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into consideration the housing delivery and displacement problems of low income neighborhood residents of the District of Columbia, the Washington Urban League recommends:

- That the Mayor declare, and the D.C. Housing and Community Development Department forthwith implement, a strong anti-displacement policy stating that the revitalization of District neighborhoods shall be for their residents.

- That this policy include assurance that the displacement of low and moderate income families will be considered a negative impact to be guarded against in designing or administering federal or local housing policies and programs.... and establish parameters for the actions and recommendations of all housing-related Boards and Commission.

- That the D.C. Housing and Community Development Department act to reverse rampant displacement trends through a two-fold strategy: first by earmarking several key currently transitional neighborhoods as models to receive the full range of available programs, techniques and resources for encouraging indigenous revitalization and averting displacement...and second, by launching a city-wide "Save Our Neighborhoods" campaign using these neighborhoods as models for other neighborhoods' action.

- That the following means should be among those used to stimulate low income neighborhood revitalization for the residents now living in them:

1) Speedy approval and implementation of D.C. Housing Finance Agency legislation, which authorizes monies for low and moderate income housing rehabilitation and construction;

2) The return to the market not only of D.C. government-owned "mothballed" properties, but also the greater number of properties owned by churches and other institutions, and by absentee owners...under circumstances which emphasize their rehabilitation for low cost rental housing as strongly as home ownership;

3) The development of D.C. Zoning Commission guidelines to discourage re-zoning which permits high-rise, luxury or office building construction at the expense of low cost rental or single family housing rehabilitation and construction;

4) Coordination with the Office of Business and Economic Development to encourage compatible commercial/light industrial development in low income neighborhoods -- both to provide attainable jobs for low income residents, and to increase neighborhood shopping options;

5) Expanded low and moderate income home improvement, rehabilitation and ownership opportunities -- from the public sector by increased use of HUD home improvement and low interest, deferred payment home ownership loans, and by increased aid to low income tenant groups interested in co-op and condo conversions...and from the private sector by ensuring

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that banks do not discriminate against female heads of households who seek home ownership loans, and that savings and loan associations make rehabilitation loans available for low cost return to the market of unoccupied housing;

6) Intensive neighborhood education and counseling services, especially on the availability of rent supplements for low income tenants...on tenants' first option to buy homes slated to be sold...on co-op and condominium conversions...on financial aid for home improvement and ownership...and on means of resisting (or capitalizing upon) private real estate speculation.

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TABLE 2. LOW INCOME AREA HOUSING PATTERNS
(By Race)

SOS '78 —
SPEAK OUT FOR SURVIVAL!

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
2.1 Owner/renter status of respondents						
Own	85	(31)	73	(35)	2	(4)
Rent	192	(69)	135	(65)	43	(96)
Total	277	(100)	208	(100)	45	(100)
2.2 Respondents moving in the last two years						
Yes	83	(30)	54	(27)	23	(46)
No	193	(70)	147	(73)	27	(54)
Total	276	(100)	201	(100)	50	(100)
2.3 Where did you live before you moved?						
Northeast	17	(22)	11	(22)	5	(23)
Southeast	25	(32)	24	(47)	1	(5)
Northwest	18	(23)	11	(22)	5	(23)
Southwest	2	(3)	2	(4)	-	-
Maryland	9	(12)	3	(5)	5	(23)
Virginia	3	(4)	-	-	3	(13)
Foreign country	3	(4)	-	-	3	(13)
Total	77	(100)	51	(100)	22	(100)
2.4 If you moved in the last two years, why did you move?						
Rent increase	12	(30)	7	(24)	5	(42)
Property tax increase	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eviction	3	(8)	2	(7)	1	(8)
Urban renewal	2	(5)	2	(7)	-	-
To live in a better house/apartment	23	(56)	18	(62)	6	(50)
Total	40	(99)	29	(100)	12	(100)
2.5 Homeowners reporting new families on their blocks within the last year						
Yes	56	(77)				
No	17	(23)				
Total	73	(100)				
2.6 Race of most of the new families, according to homeowners						
Black	38	(70)				
Latino	-	-				
White	15	(28)				
Don't know	1	(2)				
Total	54	(100)				

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
2.7 Owner/renter status of new families, according to homeowners						
Owner	25	(45)				
Renter	8	(15)				
Both of the above	17	(31)				
Don't know	5	(9)				
Total	55	(100)				
2.8 What are the chances you will move out of this house/apartment in the next two years?						
Almost certain/very likely	97	(36)	72	(35)	16	(37)
Fairly certain	22	(8)	10	(5)	10	(23)
Not likely	105	(38)	91	(44)	4	(9)
Not sure	48	(18)	32	(16)	13	(30)
Total	272	(100)	205	(100)	43	(99)
2.9 What is the biggest problem you experience in finding housing?						
Finding housing I can afford	102	(58)	77	(65)	14	(41)
Finding housing with enough bedrooms	44	(25)	33	(28)	7	(21)
Finding housing not too far from job	18	(10)	9	(7)	9	(26)
Language difficulty	11	(6)	-	-	4	(12)
Total	175	(99)	119	(100)	34	(100)
2.10 How much pride have you in your neighborhood as a place to live?						
Great deal	131	(47)	94	(46)	24	(50)
Some	73	(26)	51	(25)	16	(33)
Little	21	(8)	18	(9)	2	(4)
Hardly any	42	(15)	36	(17)	6	(13)
Not sure	13	(4)	7	(3)	-	-
Total	280	(100)	206	(100)	48	(100)
2.11 Who has responsibility for maintaining the appearance of this building?						
Landlord	75	(27)	48	(23)	21	(43)
Residents	84	(30)	69	(33)	9	(18)
Both equally	117	(41)	88	(42)	17	(35)
Not sure	7	(2)	5	(2)	2	(4)
Total	283	(100)	210	(100)	49	(100)
2.12 How important to you is the physical condition of your neighborhood?						
Very important	169	(60)	140	(67)	16	(33)
Important	64	(23)	46	(22)	12	(25)
Not very important	27	(10)	10	(5)	14	(29)
Not important at all	12	(4)	6	(3)	5	(10)
Not sure	9	(3)	7	(3)	1	(2)
Total	281	(100)	209	(100)	48	(99)

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
2.13 Who has more responsibility for maintaining the appearance of this neighborhood?						
City government	44	(16)	30	(14)	9	(19)
Residents	66	(23)	50	(24)	12	(25)
Both equally	162	(58)	122	(58)	26	(54)
Not sure	9	(3)	7	(3)	1	(2)
Total	281	(100)	209	(99)	48	(100)
2.14 Are you satisfied you're getting what you are paying for in this house/apartment?						
Very satisfied	48	(18)	37	(18)	7	(15)
Satisfied	97	(35)	65	(32)	23	(48)
Dissatisfied	89	(32)	68	(34)	12	(25)
Very dissatisfied	40	(15)	32	(16)	6	(12)
Total	274	(100)	202	(100)	48	(100)
RENTER RESPONDENTS						
2.15 What is your monthly rent?						
Less than $49	11	(6)	7	(5)	1	(2)
$50 - $99	15	(8)	13	(10)	-	-
$100 - $149	35	(18)	24	(18)	10	(23)
$150 - $199	57	(30)	32	(24)	21	(49)
$200 - $249	53	(28)	43	(32)	8	(19)
$250 - $299	12	(6)	9	(7)	2	(5)
$300 - $349	3	(2)	3	(2)	-	-
$350 and Over	4	(2)	3	(2)	1	(2)
Total	190	(100)	134	(100)	43	(100)
2.16 Considering how much you earn and your monthly expenses, do you feel you can afford this rent?						
Yes	116	(64)	77	(59)	28	(74)
No	65	(36)	53	(41)	10	(26)
Total	181	(100)	130	(100)	38	(100)
2.17 Did you know the D.C. government has rent supplement programs available?						
Yes	81	(44)	65	(50)	10	(26)
No	102	(56)	65	(50)	29	(74)
Total	183	(100)	130	(100)	39	(100)
If yes, have you ever used them?						
Yes	15	(12)	11	(11)	2	(17)
No	112	(88)	90	(89)	10	(83)
Total	127	(100)	101	(100)	12	(100)

25

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
2.18 Has the Rent Control Bill helped you keep your house/apartment?						
Yes	55	(35)	38	(33)	13	(43)
No	102	(65)	78	(67)	17	(57)
Total	157	(100)	116	(100)	30	(100)
HOMEOWNER RESPONDENTS						
2.19 Respondents who have been approached to sell their houses						
Yes	52	(66)				
No	27	(34)				
Total	79	(100)				
2.20 Category of prospectors who approached homeowners to sell.						
D.C. government	-	-				
Federal government	-	-				
Real estate agent	39	(83)				
Private citizen	8	(17)				
Total	47	(100)				
2.21 Are you going to sell your house?						
Yes	1	(2)				
No	54	(98)				
Total	55	(100)				
2.22 Respondents who feel they may be forced to move						
Yes	1	(1)				
No	70	(87)				
Don't know	9	(11)				
Total	80	(99)				
2.23 Are you planning home improvements?						
Yes	67	(86)				
No	11	(14)				
Total	78	(100)				
2.24 Have you sought a home improvement loan from any of the following?						
Bank	14	(29)				
Savings and loan association	4	(8)				
D.C. government program	6	(12)				
Used own resources	25	(51)				
Total	49	(100)				

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
2.25 Did you receive a home improvement loan from any of the following?						
Bank	13	(76)				
Savings and loan association	2	(12)				
D.C. government	2	(12)				
Total	17	(100)				

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

VII. JOB DELIVERY TO WORKERS

Table 3 depicts the extent and nature of unemployment in low income District neighborhoods...residents' attitudes toward job training and creation...and the impact of inflation and poor shopping options on residents' purchasing power. The important related issue of available transportation is discussed in Chapter X of this report.

Subemployment

The majority (69%) of low income neighborhood respondents were employed, with Latinos (82%) showing a greater likelihood of employment than blacks (66%) (Table 3.1). Despite majority employment, significant numbers (28%) of respondents overall reported incomes below the poverty threshold, and 61% reported incomes below the federal "lower" minimum budget for an urban family of four (Table 1.7).

Subemployment of this working poor population was also suggested by the relatively high percentage (9%) of the employed who were working part-time (Table 3.2). Other data not presented in Table 3 because of the small number of respondents to the question, showed that over 40% of the part-time employed wanted full-time jobs. In addition, subemployment may be deduced from the wide margins by which respondents preferred job training (31%) linked to guaranteed jobs (32%) as "the best way to develop jobs in D.C." (Table 3.13, see discussion below).

Inflation and Purchasing Power

Employed in low wages and lacking job alternatives, the overwhelming majority of low income area respondents also suffered severely from inflation. Only 5% had not had to reduce spending in the last year due to high costs. For 95% of respondents, the heaviest spending reductions were made in clothing and food (41%), followed by electricity and entertainment (28%). Less controllable heat and gas expenditures (18%) were the last to be cut. (Table 3.16, the question allowed respondents to "Check All That Apply").

Low income neighborhood citizens' reduced purchasing power was further eroded by inadequate access to less expensive shopping alternatives outside their neighborhoods. The large majority (69%) said food in their nearest supermarket cost more than food elsewhere. The high cost of locally-obtained food was more of a problem for blacks (71%) than Latinos (56%) (Table 3.17). In addition, 74% of respondents said non-food goods and services cost less elsewhere (Table 3.18). Inadequate access to cheaper food, goods and services outside their neighborhoods is discussed in Chapter IX.

Unemployment

An extremely high overall 24% unemployment rate -- not including 7% who reported they were "not looking for work" -- characterized respondents to the survey (Table 3.1). This contrasts with an official unemployment rate of 9.2% for the District during the period (June, 1978) the survey was conducted, from D.C. Labor Department estimates.

Of the 7% of respondents who were neither employed nor looking for work, retired persons (47%) comprised the largest category, with the balance more or less evenly divided among full-time housewives, students, the ill or disabled (Table 3.3). After subtracting this unavailable workforce and the employed from the survey population, the balance (or 24%) would represent "true" workforce unemployment in low income neighborhoods, with the problematic addition of part-time workers who wanted full-time jobs.

Discouraged Workers

Low income area respondents who considered themselves unemployed included a high percentage of discouraged workers who had given up actively seeking jobs. Though the majority (54%) were looking for work, and another 12% were awaiting relatively sure employment, nearly a third (33%) said "none of these" options

described their situation (Table 3.6).

The unemployed including those who had given up actively seeking work were not necessarily able to take advantage of other income security services. With 24% of respondents overall unemployed, only 12% of the same population were receiving Aid To Families With Dependent Children...only 23% were receiving Food Stamps (with a cash contribution required to receive them) (Table 1.9).

Jobless Benefits

Furthermore, only 11% of unemployed respondents were receiving unemployment insurance, with blacks (7%) much less likely than Latinos (50%) to receive it (Table 3.5). SOS '78 actually showed a decrease in the percentage of unemployed who were receiving unemployment insurance (11%) from those who were receiving it two years earlier in SOS '76 (16%).

The data suggested that long-term unemployment was the critically important reason for respondents' inability to collect employment insurance. Eighty-one percent of unemployed respondents had been jobless over 26 weeks, and 74% had been jobless over a year. Blacks (25%) were both more likely than Latinos to be unemployed (14%) (Table 3.1)...and more likely (86%) than Latinos (60%) to be unemployed over 26 weeks (Table 3.4).

Job-Seeking Habits

The data in Table 3.7 describe the job-seeking behavior of low income area unemployed respondents, and may be understood to explain why governments have difficulty in counting the "true" unemployed in low income neighborhoods. (This question allowed respondents to "Check All That Apply".)

Data-keeping referral sources (manpower training programs, unemployment insurance offices, community-based organizations and employment agencies) accounted overall for less than a third (33%) of the job-hunting sources used by unemployed respondents. Instead, the large majority (67%) of their job-hunting took place informally and without referrals: by word of mouth (23%), consulting the newspaper (23%), randomly walking into employers' stores and offices from the street (13%), and/or listening for broadcast media announcements (7%) (Table 3.7).

Unemployed respondents' very low (15%) reliance on employment agencies and the unemployment insurance office as a source of jobs was in part explained by their low opinion of the D.C. Employment Service (Table 7.1), discussed in Chapter XI of this report.

Job Skills and Training

Nearly half (46%) of unemployed respondents reported skills in white collar occupations...and clerical skills (41%) represented the largest single category of skills cited by respondents. Among the 53% whose skills were in blue collar occupations, it was significant that practically all were skilled in machine, structural or mechanic trades compared to only 3% in food services and none in cleaning and maintenance (Table 3.8, the question allowed respondents to "Check All That Apply").

That the unemployed in low income neighborhoods have job expectations beyond cleaning and maintenance, and food services, was further indicated by all respondents' strong call for job training linked to guaranteed jobs on completion of training. Sixty-three percent of respondents called for more job training programs and guaranteed jobs to those who complete them as "the best way to develop jobs in D.C." (Table 3.13).

The reason for their interest in job training with guaranteed placement was explained by Tables 3.9 and 3.11. Only 12% of respondents had been in a job training program in the last two years (Table 3.9). Yet of those who enrolled, 69% completed training (Table 3.10)...and of those who completed training, 67% found jobs as a result (Table 3.11). Conversely, it was significant that for 33% of respondents, job training did not lead to a job -- thus their emphasis on guaranteed jobs after completion of training.

Government Programs

The overwhelming majority of respondents favored forthright D.C. government action to increase available jobs for low income area citizens. Practically all (94%) said the government should "give priority" in awarding contracts to employers who agree to train and hire the unemployed and unskilled (Table 3.12). The same percentage said D.C. government should "use its money and authority" to encourage business to locate or expand in low income neighborhoods (Table 3.15). Only slightly fewer respondents (85%) were willing to let light industry and business locate in their own neighborhood (Table 3.14).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Low income neighborhood District residents are primarily a subemployed working poor experiencing a loss of purchasing power due to inflation and poor shopping options. Unemployment levels in their neighborhoods greatly exceed official data on the subject.

At least a quarter of low income heads of households are unemployed but ready and able to work. Another approximate 10% are either employed part time and want full-time jobs...or for various reasons are unable to work. Fully a third of the unemployed are discouraged workers who have given up actively seeking jobs though they are otherwise ready and able to work.

Whether actively seeking jobs or not, these unemployed residents of low income neighborhoods are characteristically long-term unemployed persons -- the great majority jobless for over a year -- who however have considerable skills, nearly half of them white collar skills, and relatively high personal job expectations. Very few of the jobless consider themselves candidates for food service, cleaning and maintenance occupations.

In view of extensive long-term unemployment patterns in low income neighborhoods, it is shocking but not surprising that almost 90% of the unemployed are not collecting unemployment insurance benefits...and further appear to be unsupported by other income security services such as Aid To Families With Dependent Children or Food Stamps. Literally without formal income sources, the discouraged unemployed have also given up consulting public and private referral agencies in their search for jobs. Over two-thirds use informal methods such as word of mouth, consulting the media and walking into employers' offices from the street, as job-hunting techniques.

To the extent that official government data collection procedures rely heavily on projections from the registered unemployed and other data-keeping referral sources -- without fully allowing for the number of discouraged workers who have given up actively seeking employment or use informal means to do so -- the D.C. Labor Department's estimates of local unemployment undercount the low income minority unemployed.

Finally, subemployed and unemployed low income neighborhood citizens are badly in need of -- and strongly desire -- job training to upgrade or customize their skills for employers. Their experience with job training programs further suggests that guaranteed jobs on completion of training are a desirable adjunct to such programs. Practically all residents of low income neighborhoods also urge D.C. government to award contracts preferentially to employers who agree to hire and train the unemployed and unskilled...and to bring light industry and business into their neighborhoods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into consideration the employment priorities and problems of low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia, the Washington Urban League recommends:

- That the Prime Sponsor activate the Private Industry Council provided under October, 1978 Title VII amendments to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973, as an at-hand private sector tool for responding to the employment crisis in low income neighborhoods. In its action the Council should emphasize the development of job training progrmas linked to guaranteed jobs on completion of training...and provide job opportunities for long-term discouraged job-seekers, unemployed youth with no ready job skills, sub-employed and two-job workers.

- That Neighborhood Work Adjustment/Work Evaluation Centers be established as non-profit community programs jointly funded by government, business and United Way to give long-term discouraged workers the pre-employment counseling, testing, exposure and encouragement they need in order to prepare for job market competition and the work world.

- That District government require its contractors to file an "Employment Impact Statement" showing that, and how, they intend to provide jobs and training to District residents in general, and low income unemployed residents in particular...and that this commitment be weighed equally with other factors in determining contract awards.

- That District government earmark low income neighborhood land for business and light industrial use in association with residential development...and use its authority to make investment and location there preferentially attractive to firms with good affirmative action records or that are labor-intensive. Tax abatements, infrastructure improvements and customized manpower programs through CETA and other federal sources can help encourage such commitments.

- That area governments and the District of Columbia adopt the National Urban League's

TABLE 3. LOW INCOME AREA UNEMPLOYMENT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS (By Race)

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
3.1 Respondents by employment status						
Employed	190	(69)	134	(66)	40	(82)
Unemployed	66	(24)	51	(25)	7	(14)
Not looking for work	19	(7)	17	(8)	2	(4)
Total	275	(100)	202	(99)	49	(100)
EMPLOYED RESPONDENTS						
3.2 Employed respondents by full-time/part-time status						
Full-time	162	(91)	121	(91)	33	(87)
Part-time	17	(9)	12	(9)	5	(13)
Total	179	(100)	133	(100)	38	(100)
RESPONDENTS NOT LOOKING FOR WORK						
3.3 Why aren't you looking for work?						
Full-time housewife	2	(12)	2	(13)	-	-
Retired	8	(47)	8	(53)	-	-
Student	3	(17)	1	(7)	2	(100)
Ill or disabled	3	(17)	3	(20)	-	-
Not able to find work	1	(6)	1	(7)	-	-
Total	17	(99)	15	(100)	2	(100)
UNEMPLOYED RESPONDENTS						
3.4 Duration of unemployment for unemployed respondents						
Less than five weeks	5	(9)	3	(7)	1	(20)
Five to fourteen weeks	3	(5)	2	(4)	-	-
Fifteen to twenty-six weeks	3	(5)	1	(2)	1	(20)
Twenty-seven to fifty-one weeks	4	(7)	4	(9)	-	-
One year or more	42	(74)	34	(77)	3	(60)
Total	57	(100)	44	(99)	5	(100)
3.5 Unemployed respondents receiving unemployment compensation						
Yes	6	(11)	3	(7)	2	(50)
No	48	(89)	39	(93)	2	(50)
Total	54	(100)	42	(100)	4	(100)

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
3.6 Which of the following best describes your situation?						
Temporarily laid off but expect to go back to old job	4	(8)	3	(8)	1	(25)
Starting new job	2	(4)	2	(5)	-	-
Looking for work	26	(54)	21	(55)	2	(50)
None of these	16	(33)	12	(32)	1	(25)
Total	48	(99)	38	(100)	4	(100)
3.7 Job hunting sources used by unemployed respondents						
Community-based organization	7	(5)				
TV/radio	9	(7)				
Newspaper ads	31	(23)				
Unemployment insurance agencies	6	(4)				
Manpower training programs	18	(13)				
Word-of-mouth	31	(23)				
Walk in and ask employer	17	(13)				
Employment agency	15	(11)				
Total	134	(99)				
3.8 What skills do you have?						
Clerical (typing, filing)	28	(41)				
Sales clerk	4	(6)				
Food preparation and services	2	(3)				
Cleaning and maintenance	-	-				
Machine trades	19	(27)				
Structural trades (bricklaying, carpentry)	4	(6)				
Auto repair	12	(17)				
Total	69	(100)				
ALL RESPONDENTS						
3.9 In the last two years, have you been in any job training program?						
Yes	35	(12)	26	(12)	6	(12)
No	253	(88)	188	(88)	43	(88)
Total	288	(100)	214	(100)	49	(100)
3.10 Respondents completing job training programs						
Completed	24	(69)	18	(69)	3	(50)
Did not complete	11	(31)	8	(31)	3	(50)
Total	35	(100)	26	(100)	6	(100)
3.11 Respondents finding jobs after training						
Yes	16	(67)	14	(67)	2	(67)
No	8	(33)	7	(33)	1	(33)
Total	24	(100)	21	(100)	3	(100)

33

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
3.12 Should D.C. government give priority in awarding contracts to employers who agree to train and hire unemployed and unskilled workers?						
Yes	262	(94)	199	(96)	43	(91)
No	16	(6)	8	(4)	4	(9)
Total	278	(100)	207	(100)	47	(100)
3.13 What is the best way to develop jobs in D.C.?						
Develop more job training programs	82	(31)	67	(33)	12	(26)
Develop and expand minority businesses	22	(8)	18	(9)	4	(8)
Attract new business to the city	41	(15)	21	(11)	12	(26)
Guarantee jobs to persons who complete training programs	86	(32)	68	(34)	9	(20)
Greater enforcement of equal opportunity laws	35	(13)	25	(13)	9	(20)
Total	266	(99)	199	(100)	46	(100)
3.14 Would you be willing to let light industry and business locate in your neighborhood if there were jobs for residents?						
Yes	235	(85)	168	(83)	47	(100)
No	40	(15)	35	(17)	-	-
Total	275	(100)	203	(100)	47	(100)
3.15 Should D.C. government use its money and authority to encourage business to locate or expand operations in low income areas?						
Yes	259	(94)	189	(93)	47	(96)
No	18	(6)	15	(7)	2	(4)
Total	277	(100)	204	(100)	49	(100)
3.16 In the last year, have you had to reduce spending for any of the following because of high costs?						
Food	159	(20)	118	(20)	28	(21)
Clothing	164	(21)	119	(20)	29	(22)
Entertainment	111	(14)	75	(13)	23	(17)
Electricity	107	(14)	85	(14)	15	(11)
Heat for your home	73	(9)	56	(10)	11	(8)
Gas for your car	70	(9)	56	(10)	9	(7)
All of these	65	(8)	46	(8)	14	(11)
None of these	39	(5)	33	(5)	3	(2)
Total	788	(100)	588	(100)	132	(99)

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
3.17 Does food in the supermarket nearest your home cost more or less than in supermarkets elsewhere?						
More	181	(69)	137	(71)	25	(56)
Less	11	(4)	6	(3)	5	(11)
About the same	69	(26)	49	(26)	15	(33)
Total	261	(99)	192	(100)	45	(100)
3.18 Can you buy non-food goods and services at less cost from stores outside your neighborhood?						
Yes	191	(74)	140	(73)	32	(73)
No	67	(26)	51	(27)	12	(27)
Total	258	(100)	191	(100)	44	(100)

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

VIII. CRIME REDUCTION IN LOW INCOME NEIGHBORHOODS

Table 4 depicts the attitudes of low income neighborhood residents toward crime reduction in their neighborhoods.

Youth Crime

Whether black or Latino, practically all (97%) low income area respondents felt youth crime was a serious problem in the District (Table 4.1). They most feared property crimes (with the exception of motor vehicle theft) and drug abuse (69%)...and expressed less concern over the potential for so-called "crimes of passion", murder and rape (21%).

The most feared crimes in low income neighborhoods were robbery (20%), burglary (19%) and drug abuse (17%). Latinos were more likely than blacks to fear robbery (24%) and drug abuse (22%) (Table 4.10, the question allowed respondents to "Check All That Apply").

Solutions to Crime

As solutions to crime in D.C., the overwhelming majority (90%) of black low income area respondents preferred various kinds of crime prevention activities to stricter law enforcement. Only 10% of blacks sought "increased police patrols" in their neighborhoods, compared with "more jobs for youth" (48%), "reinforced parental concern and involvement" (26%), "greater support for community crime prevention programs" (10%), and "improved school educational and guidance programs" (8%) (Table 4.2).

Of responses from Latino households, only 17% sought increased police patrols in their neighborhoods, compared to 83% preferring the range of crime prevention activities. Latinos were however equally in favor of providing more jobs for youth (22%), reinforcing parental concern and involvement (22%) and supporting community-based crime prevention programs (22%). Slightly fewer (17%) favored improved school educational and guidance programs.

Drug and Alcohol Law Enforcement

Yet almost three-quarters (72%) of both black and Latino respondents did favor better enforcement of laws restricting youth access to drugs and alcohol (Table 4.9). Their strong concern for better law enforcement in this area was explained, in part, by the fact that the majority of respondents (56%) considered "very available drugs" the chief cause of youth drug abuse, compared to 31% who blamed "lack of parent concern". However Latinos were more likely to attribute drug abuse to lack of parent concern (45%) than drug availability (37%) (Table 4.3).

In view of low income neighborhood concern for stricter enforcement of drug and alcohol laws, it was not surprising that respondents were also sharply divided over the question whether or not marijuana should be decriminalized in the District. The majority of respondents (56%) were aware of proposed D.C. City Council legislation to eliminate marijuana possession in small amounts as a criminal offense (Table 4.12). But only two percentage points separated those in favor of the legislation (51%) from those against it (49%). Data not presented in the tables suggested that Latinos were less likely to know about the legislation, and more likely to oppose it (Table 4.13).

Crime Prevention Activities

As specific measures to reduce crime, low income neighborhood respondents were consistent with other data (Table 4.2) in preferring "programs that support and work with families" (32%) and "educational crime prevention programs" (20%) -- but also showed significant interest in "activities to improve police/community relations" (24%). Latinos were more likely than blacks to prefer improved police/community relations (33%) and educational crime prevention programs (29%), while blacks (35%) were more likely than Latinos (24%) to prefer programs that support and work with families (Table 4.8).

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In view of respondents' family-job-education emphasis on crime prevention programs over stricter law enforcement, it was signficant that over three-quarters (78%) of all respondents were willing to give criminals not convicted of a violent crime, access to their families and neighborhoods outside the detention center. While Latinos were evenly divided on this subject, blacks (82%) were strongly in favor of it (Table 4.5).

Also, substantial majorities of both blacks (63%) and Latinos (65%) noted an absence of community-based crime prevention programs in their neighborhoods (Table 4.7). Though neither group thought their performance was effective (57%), blacks were evenly divided on this question (Table 4.6).

Police/Community Relations

Low income neighborhood citizens showed a strong and consistent concern for improved police/community relations. Whether black or Latino, the large majority (68%) thought police officers should live in the District (Table 4.4). Another majority (58%) also thought black or Latino police officers were "better equipped to deal with crime in their (respective) neighborhoods" than white police officers. Latinos (64%) felt more strongly than blacks (51%) that this was the case (Table 4.11).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Youth crime is a central concern of low income District neighborhood residents, who simultaneously are most afraid of the potential for property crimes (as opposed to crimes of passion) in their neighborhoods. Low income area residents most fear the likelihood that robbery, burglary or drug abuse will happen to them or their children.

As means of reducing crime in the District, low income area residents strongly prefer various kinds of crime prevention activities to stricter law enforcement. By considerable margins they want "more jobs for youth" and "reinforced parental concern and involvement" rather than "increased police patrols" in their neighborhoods.

Yet because they blame "very available drugs" more than "lack of parent concern" as reasons for youth drug abuse, they do favor better enforcement of laws restricting youth access to drugs and alcohol as a means of reducing District crime. They are also generally aware of proposed D.C. City Council legislation to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana, and are sharply divided over this issue.

Among the various kinds of crime prevention activities, in addition to seeking more jobs for youth low income area residents most prefer "programs that support and work with families". They give next priority to "improved police/-community relations", with "educational programs that include crime prevention" running a close third.

Consistent with their emphasis on family and community-oriented solutions to youth crime, low income area residents are very willing to give criminals not convicted of violent crimes access to their families outside the detention center. They also report a lack of community-based crime prevention programs, and express dissatisfaction with the performance of those that exist.

While seeking improved police/community relations, low income area residents by considerable margins feel that District police officers should be District residents assigned to their neighborhoods on the basis of race/ethnic indentity.

Latino residents of low income District neighborhoods appear to be more conservative than blacks in their attitudes toward crime reduction. They are somewhat more likely than blacks to seek increased police patrols...to attribute drug abuse to lack of parent concern rather than very available drugs...to oppose the decriminalization of marijuana possession in small amounts...to prefer improved police/community relations...to be divided on the question whether or not criminals not convicted of violent crimes should have access to the community outside the detention center...and to support the assignment of neighborhood police officers on the basis of race/ethnic identity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into consideration the personal safety problems and crime reduction priorities of low income neighborhood residents of the District of Columbia, the Washington Urban League recommends:

- That D.C. government establish a network of Neighborhood Anti-Crime Centers in low income neighborhoods, developed with -- and staffed by -- their residents as hubs for creative advocacy to reduce crime.

- Specifically, that the Neighborhood Anti-Crime Centers be located in housing rehabilitated by the D.C. Housing Finance Agency...provide jobs to residents as organizers of "crime watch",

"victimization" and "citizens' aid to reduce crime" programs...actively involve youth and ex-offenders...and create a sense of neighborhood and constructive environment for interface between residents and the Metropolitan Police Department.

- Also, that eligible non-violent offenders have access to their families through work or other release to the Neighborhood Anti-Crime Centers, where professional counselors would work with both families and offenders to ensure rehabilitation.

- Also, that D.C. government train residents at the Neighborhood Anti-Crime Centers, and staff at many community organizations, to act as advocates in processing citizens' complaints against the Metropolitan Police Department, according to established Department procedures for doing so.

- Also, that D.C. government set aside more CETA jobs and training opportunities for youth, a percentage of which should be made available for court referrals to the Neighborhood Anti-Crime Centers...and that in its own summer and other job programs the business community adopt a similar set-aside policy.

It is further recommended:

- That, since neighborly acquaintance improves police performance and gives informal protection to District neighborhoods, the D.C. government should affirmatively encourage members of the Metropolitan Police Department to live in the District -- by placing at their disposal the full range of available opportunities to rehabilitate and/or purchase housing in selected neighborhoods.

- That District government bring urgency and balance to its attack on substance abuse problems, on the health side revitalizing waning substance abuse education and treatment programs, and on the law enforcement side increasing efforts to stop illegal distribution and use.

- That in order to address the root causes of anti-social and criminal behavior among youth, D.C. government and United Way should increase support for non-profit community programs which support and work with families and troubled youth.

- That the D.C. Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis conduct a major public education campaign (including forums at the Neighborhood Anti-Crime Centers) in order to raise the level of civic debate on crime issues...inform residents of constructive means for reducing neighborhood crime...and encourage voluntarism and participation in crime prevention activities.

TABLE 4. LOW INCOME AREA ATTITUDES TOWARD CRIME REDUCTION
(By Race)

SOS '78 --
SPEAK OUT FOR SURVIVAL!

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
4.1 Respondents who feel youth crime is a serious problem in D.C.						
Yes	278	(97)	209	(97)	44	(98)
No	8	(3)	6	(3)	1	(2)
Total	286	(100)	215	(100)	45	(100)
4.2 What should be done about crime in D.C.?						
Improve schools' education and guidance programs			8	(6)		
Reinforce parental concern and involvement			36	(26)		
Increase police patrol			15	(10)		
Provide more jobs for youth			67	(48)		
Greater support for crime prevention programs by community organizations			14	(10)		
Total			140	(100)		
4.3 What is the major cause of drug use among D.C. youth?						
Lack of parent concern	71	(31)	46	(27)	18	(45)
Bad schools	15	(7)	12	(7)	3	(8)
Poor church attendance	13	(6)	8	(5)	4	(10)
Very available drugs	130	(56)	104	(61)	15	(37)
Total	229	(100)	170	(100)	40	(100)
4.4 Should police officers have to live in D.C.?						
Yes	185	(68)	141	(69)	27	(58)
No	88	(32)	62	(31)	19	(41)
Total	273	(100)	203	(100)	46	(99)
4.5 Should a criminal not convicted of a violent crime have access to family and/or community outside the detention center?						
Yes	211	(78)	164	(82)	23	(49)
No	61	(22)	36	(18)	24	(51)
Total	272	(100)	200	(100)	47	(100)
4.6 Do you think neighborhood associations and organizations dedicated to preventing crime are effective?						
Yes	93	(43)	78	(49)	11	(31)
No	121	(57)	81	(51)	24	(69)
Total	214	(100)	159	(100)	35	(100)

39

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
4.7 Are there any special associations and organizations dedicated to preventing crime in your neighborhood?						
Yes	56	(19)	44	(21)	5	(10)
No	183	(63)	134	(63)	32	(65)
Don't know	51	(18)	36	(16)	12	(24)
Total	290	(100)	214	(100)	49	(99)
4.8 What kind of crime reduction program would be most effective?						
Programs that support and work with families	84	(32)	66	(35)	11	(24)
Educational programs that include crime prevention	51	(20)	36	(19)	13	(29)
Activities to improve police/community relations	62	(24)	40	(21)	15	(33)
Religious programs	17	(7)	13	(7)	3	(7)
Recreation programs	45	(17)	35	(18)	3	(7)
Total	259	(100)	190	(100)	45	(100)
4.9 Respondents who feel better enforcement of laws restricting youth access to alcohol and drugs, will help prevent crime.						
Yes	202	(72)	147	(72)	41	(84)
No	78	(28)	58	(28)	8	(16)
Total	280	(100)	205	(100)	49	(100)
4.10 Crimes most feared by respondents						
Murder	85	(10)	67	(10)	12	(9)
Robbery	170	(20)	124	(19)	32	(24)
Burglary	163	(19)	130	(20)	19	(14)
Larceny/theft	112	(13)	85	(13)	21	(16)
Forcible rape	95	(11)	79	(12)	12	(9)
Motor vehicle theft	71	(8)	58	(9)	8	(6)
Drug abuse	145	(17)	109	(16)	29	(22)
Total	841	(98)	652	(99)	133	(100)
4.11 Are black police officers in the black community, and Latino officers in the Latino community, better able to deal with problems (crime) in those neighborhoods than white police officers?						
Yes	138	(58)	101	(59)	27	(64)
No	101	(42)	71	(41)	15	(36)
Total	239	(100)	172	(100)	42	(100)

40

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
4.12 Did you know that the D.C. City Council is considering eliminating possession of small amounts of marijuana as a criminal offense?						
Yes	159	(56)				
No	123	(44)				
Total	282	(100)				
4.13 Do you think marijuana should be decriminalized in D.C.?						
Yes	136	(51)				
No	130	(49)				
Total	266	(100)				

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

IX. TRANSPORTATION ACCESS

Table 5 depicts the transportation patterns of low income neighborhood residents of the District of Columbia.

Private Car and Subway Use

Over half (52%) of low income area respondents did not own a car, with Latinos (31%) even less likely to own one than blacks (51%) (Table 3.1). In addition, over three-quarters (76%) of respondents indicated that they "never" used the new Metro subway (Table 5.6)...and three-quarters (75%) also reported that the subway had not changed the way they travel (Table 5.7).

Of the 25% of respondents who said the subway had changed the way they travel, about half (54%) said the new Metro made it "easier to get around", and "decreased travel time" (52%). On the other hand a high percentage (31%) of the same respondents said the new subway actually made it "harder to get around" (Tables 5.8 and 5.9, answered only by respondents who said Metro had changed the way they travel).

Since the two foregoing questions were not, strictly speaking, answered by respondents who indicated that they used the subway themselves, their responses could be interpreted either to mean that Metro was inconveniently located for their purposes, or that bus route rearrangements resulting from the subway were inconveniencing low income neighborhood residents.

Inconvenience as a characteristic of the new Metro subway was particularly reported by Latinos, all of whom were surveyed in the Adams Morgan and Mt. Pleasant areas. Half of Latinos, compared with 28% of blacks, said the subway made it "harder to get around" (Table 5.8). On the other hand, many more blacks (78%) than Latinos (33%) were reported "never" to have used the subway; and Latinos were correspondingly more likely to use the subway periodically, with for example 42% of Latinos using it "once a month" compared to only 4% of blacks (Table 5.6).

In general, low income neighborhood Metro subway riders did not use the system daily, for example to get to work. Instead nearly three-quarters (70%) used it only periodically -- from "two to three times a week" to "once a month" (Table 5.6).

In general also, the new Metro subway's impact on their neighborhood housing costs was not understood by most respondents (70%). Again, however, Latinos in Adams Morgan and Mount Pleasant felt strongly that Metro had increased their housing costs (100%) -- and 23% of blacks agreed (Table 5.10).

Bus Use

With over half of low income neighborhood respondents not owning cars, and three-quarters of them not using the subway, it was not surprising that public bus transportation was the single most important means low income area residents used to get to work. Overall 48% of respondents used the bus to get to work, including only 4% who used both bus and subway. Latinos (69%) were even more dependent than blacks (41%) on bus transportation (Table 5.2).

Furthermore, over half (52%) of those relying on bus transportation used it daily; and 74% used it during either AM or PM rush hours, or both. It was also significant that among those who used the bus only periodically, as many as half used it relatively little: no more than once a week, once every two weeks or once a month (Tables 5.4 and 5.5).

Attitudes toward Public Transportation

Bus riders' relatively low usage of the facility -- especially on a periodic basis and despite their dependence on it to get to work -- was explained by respondents' answers tc Tables 5.11 and 5.12. All residents of low income neighborhoods were asked in two different ways their opinion of D.C. public transportation; and since so few respondents overall were subway riders, their answers referred essentially to bus transportation.

Thus it was significant that half of all respondents most disliked the fact that public transportation was "slow", compared to a number of other options (Table 5.12). Furthermore, when asked what they liked most about D.C. public transportation, despite numerous positive options fully a quarter of responses indicated "nothing" (Table 5.11, this question allowed respondents to "Check All That Apply").

Disliking public bus transportation but using it when necessary to get to work, low income neighborhood respondents -- like other citizens -- preferred private car transportation for this purpose. Driving their own car was the second (38%) most important single means of transportation respondents used to get to work, with a significant additional 7% using car pools. Being less likely to own cars, Latinos (23%) were also less likely than blacks (39%) to use cars to get to work (Table 5.2).

Shopping Transportation

Low income area respondents' relatively low bus use was further revealed by their shopping transportation patterns. Even though only 13% of respondents did not consider public (bus) transportation "inconvenient to places I go" (Table 5.12)...and even though some three-quarters of respondents thought food, goods and services could be purchased more cheaply outside their neighborhoods (Tables 3.17 and 3.18)...a mere 12% of respondents used the bus for grocery shopping. Instead, over a third (35%) preferred to walk to neighborhood stores at presumably greater expense (Table 5.3).

On the other hand, practically all respondents who owned cars (Table 5.1), used them for grocery shopping. Overall, 48% of respondents used cars for this purpose, presumably to travel to cheaper supermarkets and stores outside their neighborhoods. Only 5% used taxis to shop (Table 5.3).

Metro Crime

Crime may be a further reason why low income area respondents prefer not to use public (bus) transportation. Though over three-quarters (76%) of respondents -- most of them blacks (90%) and not Latinos (13%) -- had never been robbed or assaulted on Metro buses, the overwhelming majority of both groups (91%) considered bus crime a serious problem in the District (Tables 5.13 and 5.14).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Washington has a separate and unequal transportation system for black and Latino residents of low income District neighborhoods. These citizens are likely to be walking or using the bus while other citizens are driving private cars and taking subways and taxis to work and to shop.

A majority of low income neighborhood residents don't own cars; and three-quarters "never" use the new Metro subway, probably because it is inconveniently located for their needs. Those whose transportation patterns have been changed by Metro find it easier to get around and faster, but are more likely to use the subway periodically than daily to get to work.

Practically all low income area residents who have an opinion on the subject think the new Metro subway has increased the cost of housing in their neighborhoods.

Whether subway or bus, public transportation in the District is such that only half of low income neighborhood residents overall are able or willing to use it to get to work. In fact, most low income area users of public transportation are bus riders who use the bus to get to work daily during rush hours. Their dissatisfaction with the facility is that it is slow, and fully a quarter of low income area residents like "nothing" about public transportation at all.

Like other citizens, low income neighborhood residents who can afford cars prefer to use them to get to work and to shop. A small but significant number use car pools to get to work. Very few can afford taxis to shop.

SOS '78 findings on the cheaper cost of food, goods and services outside low income neighborhoods explain why cars are an important means of shopping transportation for residents -- and suggest the devastating economic consequences of the fact that over a third of low income neighborhood residents walk to neighborhood stores when they shop.

Low income area residents' dislike of bus transportation is clear. The data suggests that unless it is absolutely necessary to get to work, they are unwilling to be bus riders even if their only alternative is to walk to local stores that cost more, and even though they do not consider bus routes inconvenient to their needs.

In addition to feeling that buses are slow, low income neighborhood residents are reluctant to use them because of crime. Though the majority of blacks had never been robbed or assaulted on the bus, the majority of blacks and Latinos feel crime on buses is a serious problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into consideration the transportation priorities and problems of low income neighborhood residents of the District of Columbia, the Washington Urban League recommends:

- That Metro complement its present and projected subway system with improved supplemental bus services to residents of low income District neighborhoods.

- That Metro conduct or have conducted low income neighborhood home interview surveys to determine the special needs of this population, as a complement to existing ridership surveys and in order to plan new and improved bus services increasing low income ridership.

- That Metro increase the participation of low income citizens in transportation planning, creating new mechanisms as necessary to ensure their effective representation in the planning process as a major segment of the total community.

- That Metro begin to improve low income neighborhood residents' access to, and use of, public bus transportation by providing mini-bus shuttle services to major commercial arteries from neighborhoods not now adequately served by bus routes...and by giving priority to the improvement of personal safety on Metro buses.

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TABLE 5. LOW INCOME AREA TRANSPORTATION PATTERNS
(By Race)

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
5.1 Do you own a car?						
Yes	140	(48)	111	(51)	15	(31)
No	153	(52)	106	(49)	34	(69)
Total	293	(100)	217	(100)	49	(100)
5.2 How do you get to work each day?						
Walk	12	(6)	7	(5)	4	(9)
Drive own car	80	(38)	58	(39)	11	(23)
Car pool	15	(7)	13	(9)	2	(4)
Bus	95	(44)	62	(41)	29	(62)
Bus and subway	9	(4)	8	(5)	1	(2)
Subway	1	(1)	1	(1)	-	-
Total	212	(100)	149	(100)	47	(100)
5.3 What transportation do you use for grocery shopping?						
Walk	91	(35)	52	(27)	29	(62)
Drive car	125	(48)	106	(55)	8	(17)
Taxi	14	(5)	10	(5)	2	(4)
Bus	31	(12)	22	(12)	8	(17)
Bus and subway	1	-	1	(1)	-	-
Total	262	(100)	191	(100)	49	(100)
5.4 Respondents by frequency of bus use						
Daily	103	(42)	74	(40)	26	(63)
Two/three times a week	47	(19)	35	(19)	8	(20)
Once a week	15	(6)	9	(5)	3	(7)
Once every two weeks	11	(4)	9	(5)	-	-
Once a month	22	(9)	14	(8)	4	(10)
Never	49	(20)	43	(23)	-	-
Total	247	(100)	184	(100)	41	(100)
5.5 What time do you ride the bus?						
AM/PM rush hours	111	(56)	84	(57)	24	(62)
AM rush hours only	19	(10)	14	(9)	3	(8)
PM rush hours only	16	(8)	9	(6)	6	(15)
Not rush hours	53	(26)	41	(28)	6	(15)
Total	199	(100)	148	(100)	39	(100)
5.6 How often do you ride the subway?						
Daily	16	(7)	16	(9)	-	-
Two/three times a week	13	(6)	11	(6)	1	(8)
Once a week	3	(1)	2	(1)	1	(8)
Once every two weeks	4	(2)	3	(2)	1	(8)
Once a month	17	(8)	8	(4)	5	(42)
Never	164	(76)	144	(78)	4	(33)
Total	217	(100)	184	(100)	12	(99)

45

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
5.7 Has the new Metro subway changed the way you travel?						
Yes	60	(25)	48	(25)	5	(18)
No	183	(75)	143	(75)	23	(82)
Total	243	(100)	191	(100)	28	(100)
5.8 In what way has the new Metro subway affected you?						
Easier to get around	29	(54)	24	(56)	2	(50)
Harder to get around	17	(31)	12	(28)	2	(50)
No effect	8	(15)	7	(16)	-	-
Total	54	(100)	43	(100)	4	(100)
5.9 Has the new Metro subway affected your average travel time in getting to destinations?						
Increased travel time	17	(34)	14	(35)	1	(25)
Decreased travel time	26	(52)	19	(48)	3	(75)
No time difference	7	(14)	7	(17)	-	-
Total	50	(100)	40	(100)	4	(100)
5.10 Has the new Metro subway affected the cost of housing in your neighborhood?						
Increased it	43	(29)	32	(23)	8	(100)
Decreased it	2	(1)	1	(1)	-	-
Don't know	105	(70)	105	(76)	-	-
Total	150	(100)	138	(100)	8	(100)
5.11 What do you like most about D.C. public transportation?						
Fast	31	(9)	29	(11)	-	-
Comfortable	41	(11)	27	(10)	13	(19)
Inexpensive	52	(15)	34	(13)	15	(22)
Drives pleasant	45	(12)	34	(13)	8	(12)
Convenient to places I go	99	(28)	81	(31)	10	(15)
Nothing	88	(25)	57	(22)	22	(32)
Total	356	(100)	262	(100)	68	(100)
5.12 What do you dislike most about D.C. public transportation?						
Slow	75	(50)	67	(52)	17	(57)
Uncomfortable	15	(10)	12	(9)	3	(10)
Expensive	23	(15)	20	(15)	5	(17)
Drivers unpleasant	7	(5)	6	(5)	1	(3)
Inconvenient to places I go	19	(13)	17	(13)	-	-
Don't know	11	(7)	8	(6)	4	(13)
Total	150	(100)	130	(100)	30	(100)

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
5.13 Is crime on Metro buses a serious problem?						
Yes	226	(91)	188	(92)	17	(85)
No	21	(9)	16	(8)	3	(15)
Total	247	(100)	204	(100)	20	(100)
5.14 Have you ever been robbed or assaulted on Metro buses?						
Yes	64	(24)	21	(10)	39	(87)
No	207	(76)	180	(90)	6	(13)
Total	271	(100)	201	(100)	45	(100)

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

X. PARENTS' ROLE IN QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

Table 6 depicts the attitudes of low income neighborhood parents toward their involvement in neighborhood schools, and some opinions of all residents regarding public education and parents' role in it.

Overall, half (51%) of low income area respondents were parents with children currently enrolled in D.C. public schools. With two exceptions (Tables 6.10 and 6.11), all SOS '78 education questions were asked only of these parents.

Educational Responsibilities

In Table 6.10, half (51%) of all low income area residents including parents indicated that in their opinion, the D.C. Public Schools were not providing a quality education to children. In Table 6.11, even more respondents including parents (60%) thought the responsibility for teaching children right from wrong lay with parents as opposed to schools or churches. However, 39% of respondents felt the responsibility should be shared among parents, schools and churches. Latinos (47%) tended to favor the sharing of responsibility more than blacks (36%).

Parent Involvement

The overwhelming majority of low income neighborhood parents (93%) had visited their children's schools (Table 6.2). In fact more (93%) visited their children's schools than had been invited to do so (78%), particularly among blacks (Tables 6.2 and 6.3). On those visits, the great majority of parents (84%) talked with their children's teachers (Table 6.5).

Most (59%) of low income area parents were not members of PTA's or other special school groups. This was particularly the case for Latinos (84%). But a very significant number (41%), especially of blacks (47%), were members -- and of them, 61% described their involvement as "moderate" to "very active" (Table 6.6).

Parent Concerns

Nearly half (45%) of low income area parents, and over half (53%) of Latino parents, said they "needed assistance" in helping their children in school. The greater Latino concern for assistance might be attributed to language problems, since in Table 2.9 Latinos expressed language concerns in regard to finding housing (Table 6.7).

Again, half (51%) of all parents, and over half (61%) of Latino parents, feared for their children's safety in school. Whether black or Latino, seven out of ten (70%) of parents who feared for their children's safety did so because of crime. Surprisingly few black parents (16%) and no Latino parents, feared for their children's safety in school due to drugs (Table 6.8).

Although the majority (59%) of parents, particularly Latino parents (89%), felt their children had a book and enough other materials for each class, significant numbers did not think this was the case. Over a third (34%) of parents overall were concerned about this lack of basic educational materials (Table 6.9).

Reasons Why Parents Visited Schools

In view of the just-described parental interests, needs for assistance and concerns, it was notable that over half (53%) of parents who were asked to visit their children's schools, did so only to attend "special events". Indeed, this was the case for 65% of Latino parents. Forty percent visited the schools to discuss grade and discipline problems (Tables 6.3 and 6.4).

Only 8% of black parents (and no Latino parents) visited their children's schools for "other" reasons. Only 5% of black parents (and no Latino parents) visited their children's schools and talked with counselors. Only 10% of black parents (and 19% of Latino parents) visited their children's schools and talked with the principal (Tables 6.4 and 6.5).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Low income neighborhood residents, half of whom are parents with children currently enrolled in the public schools, demonstrate a strong sense of responsibility for children's education, and are vitally concerned about the education delivered by neighborhood schools. Over half do not think the D.C. Public Schools are providing a "quality education" for children.

Low income area parents in particular show marked tendencies to visit their children's schools whether or not they are invited...to talk with teachers on those occasions...to be members of PTA's and other special school groups...and to describe their involvement in such groups as "moderate" to "very active'.

Furthermore, high percentages of parents feel they "need assistance" in helping their children in school...fear for their children's safety in school for reasons of crime more than drugs...and think their children do not have a book and enough other materials for each class.

It is therefore remarkable that, although three-quarters of parents have been asked to visit their children's schools, half have been invited only to attend "special events", and the remainder to discuss grade and discipline problems particularly with their children's teachers. Negligible numbers of parents visit their children's schools for "other" purposes, or talk with the principal or counselors.

Potentially active and interested low income area parents are not being involved by the D.C. public schools in educational activities and other issues designed to upgrade the quality of their children's education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into consideration the public education priorities and problems of low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia, the Washington Urban League recommends:

- That to recommit our community to the achievement of quality public education, a system of contractual relationships between parents, students and educators should be established at the neighborhood school level, which voluntarily obligates students to learn, teachers to teach, administrators to administer and parents to get involved in neighborhood schools. Substantiated by other partnership activities throughout the school year, such a system should include provision for the differential allocation of counseling and other D.C.P.S. resources to "problem" schools.

- That the D.C. Board of Education, the Mayor's new special assistant for education, media and concerned institutions together develop and sponsor a series of Public Education Forums for parents and community members. The Forums should be designed to combat negative attitudes about parent/community involvement in neighborhood schools, and to promote the development of structured input mechanisms allowing parents and citizens to further educational goals and improved learning environments at neighborhood schools.

- That neighborhood schools establish special workshops and seminars to teach parents how to help their children in school.

- That the D.C. Public Schools immediately redirect budgeted dollars to make sure that all students have the necessary books and other educational materials for each class.

- That existing parent-focused groups, organizational structures and vehicles for parent communication at neighborhood schools be wholly-reexamined to determine their effectiveness in involving potentially active and concerned low income neighborhood parents...and where necessary that they be replaced by more relevant mechanisms for achieving such involvement.

- That neighborhood schools and the D.C. Public Schools make a greater effort to identify low income neighborhood parents' specific concerns about the quality of their children's education, and further act to ensure their children's safety in school.

TABLE 6. LOW INCOME AREA PARENT ATTITUDES TOWARD SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT
(By Race)

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
6.1 Respondents with children enrolled in the D.C. Public School System						
Yes	147	(51)	116	(54)	19	(40)
No	143	(49)	100	(46)	29	(60)
Total	290	(100)	216	(100)	48	(100)
PARENT RESPONDENTS						
6.2 Parents who have visited their child's school						
Yes	136	(93)	107	(92)	17	(89)
No	11	(7)	9	(8)	2	(11)
Total	147	(100)	116	(100)	19	(100)
6.3 Have you ever been asked to visit your child's school?						
Yes	104	(78)	87	(76)	17	(89)
No	30	(22)	28	(24)	2	(11)
Total	134	(100)	115	(100)	19	(100)
6.4 Parents' reasons for visiting their child's school						
Special events	62	(53)	43	(48)	11	(65)
Discipline problems	26	(22)	24	(27)	2	(11)
Grade problems	21	(18)	15	(17)	4	(24)
Other	8	(7)	7	(8)	-	-
Total	117	(100)	89	(100)	17	(100)
6.5 When you visited the school, whom did you talk with?						
Teachers	109	(84)	88	(85)	13	(81)
Principal	15	(12)	10	(10)	3	(19)
Counselors	5	(4)	5	(5)	-	-
Total	129	(100)	103	(100)	16	(100)
6.6 Are you a member of the PTA or other special school groups?						
Yes	61	(41)	55	(47)	3	(16)
No	88	(59)	60	(53)	16	(84)
Total	149	(100)	115	(100)	19	(100)
If yes, how would you describe your involvement?						
Very active	12	(19)	10	(18)	1	(33)
Moderate	27	(42)	22	(40)	-	-
Low	13	(20)	12	(22)	1	(33)
Not active	12	(19)	11	(20)	1	(33)
Total	64	(100)	55	(100)	3	(99)

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
6.7 Parents who need assistance in helping their child in school						
Yes	63	(45)	48	(44)	10	(53)
No	78	(55)	62	(56)	9	(47)
Total	141	(100)	110	(100)	19	(100)
6.8 Do you fear for your child's safety in school?						
Yes	73	(51)	59	(53)	11	(61)
No	69	(49)	53	(47)	7	(39)
Total	142	(100)	112	(100)	18	(100)
If yes, why?						
Crime	38	(70)	32	(71)	6	(67)
Drugs	7	(13)	7	(16)	-	-
Traffic on the street	7	(13)	5	(11)	2	(22)
Poor building conditions	2	(4)	1	(2)	1	(11)
Total	54	(100)	45	(100)	9	(100)
6.9 Last year, did your child have a book and enough other materials for each class?						
Yes	80	(59)	63	(56)	17	(89)
No	46	(34)	44	(39)	2	(11)
Don't know	9	(7)	6	(5)	-	-
Total	135	(100)	113	(100)	19	(100)
ALL RESPONDENTS						
6.10 Are the D.C. Public Schools now providing a quality education for children?						
Yes	73	(30)	51	(28)	18	(45)
No	124	(51)	97	(54)	12	(30)
Don't know	43	(18)	31	(17)	10	(25)
Total	240	(99)	179	(99)	40	(100)
6.11 Who is responsible for teaching children right from wrong?						
Parents	164	(60)	132	(63)	21	(49)
Churches	1	-	-	-	1	(2)
Schools	3	(1)	1	-	1	(2)
All of these	106	(39)	75	(36)	20	(47)
None of these	1	-	1	-	-	-
Total	275	(100)	209	(99)	43	(100)

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

XI. CITIZEN PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES

Table 7 depicts low income neighborhood citizens' priorities for the improvement of D.C. public services.

Ratings of Municipal Services

With one exception, at least half of all low income neighborhood respondents who were asked to rate five key District services, rated them only "fair" to "very poor". The services were: "Health Services", "Housing Upkeep/-Maintenance Services", "Fire Protection Services", "Employment Counseling Services" and "Garbage/Trash Collection Services" (Table 7.1).

In particular, fire protection was rated "good" to "very good" by more respondents (58%) than any other service area. With this exception, most respondents rated the municipal services "fair" to "very poor" by margins of 83% for housing upkeep/maintenance services...83% again for employment counseling...54% for health services...and 50% for garbage/trash collection. These attitudes prevail regardless of race/ethnic identity (Table 7.1).

Use of Human Services

The large majority (72%) of respondents indicated that they had not used D.C. government human services (including housing and employment counseling) "in the last six months" (Table 7.2). Of the 28% who had used them, the majority (58%) rated them generally "good" to "very good" -- a higher percentage than had been the opinion of the general population regarding municipal services overall. Black users of D.C. human services (20%) were somewhat more likely than Latino users (14%) to rate D.C. government human services "very good" (Table 7.3).

But low income area respondents' use of D.C. government human services tended to follow the population's overall rating of these services. Thus, of those who had used human services in the last six months, the fewest sought housing counseling (9%) and employment counseling (12%) -- services also rated the lowest by 83% of all respondents to the survey. Similarly, half (49%) of service users had been to city hospitals and clinics in the last six months - and D.C. health services were rated only "fair" to "very poor" by half (54%) of low income neighborhood respondents overall (Tables 7.1 and 7.2).

A third (30%) of all low income area users of D.C. government human services had sought public assistance. Elsewhere in the demographic section of the survey, almost exactly the same number of individuals (31 persons) reported they were receiving "Aid To Families With Dependent Children". This allowed the supposition that these D.C. government human service users were almost exclusively AFDC recipients. They represented only 12% of the overall survey population (Tables 7.2 and 1.9).

Concerns of Human Service Users

Notably high numbers of low income neighborhood respondents had to wait a month or more to receive D.C. government human services after applying for them. This was the case for 50% of respondents -- with only 20% receiving the needed services in a week or less (Table 7.6).

Similarly, almost half (45%) of those who had applied for D.C. government human services, felt they were not treated "with courtesy and respect". Latino service applicants were somewhat more likely than blacks to feel properly treated; but many more Latinos (40%) than blacks (22%) had "never" applied for the services (Table 7.4, percentages adjusted for respondents who had applied for the services).

Low income neighborhood respondents were generally not knowledgeable about the different D.C. government human services to which they were entitled. Sixty-eight percent either did not know their entitlements or only "some" of them. Latinos (42%) were even less likely than blacks (28%) not to know any of the services to which they were entitled (Table 7.5).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

With the exception of fire protection, half or more of District low income neighborhood residents feel that key municipal services affecting them are in great need of improvement. Rated the best is the D.C. Fire Department, though two-fifths of citizens nevertheless think its performance is only "fair" to "very poor".

Running second in performance in their opinion is the D.C. Department of Environmental Services, with half of citizens so rating garbage and trash collection in their neighborhoods. A little over half of low income neighborhood citizens think health services provided by the D.C. Department of Human Resources are only "fair" to "very poor".

But over four-fifths of all low income area citizens are greatly dissatisfied with the D.C. Housing Department's housing upkeep and maintenance services (maintenance in the sense of keeping their homes)...and equally dissatisfied with employment counseling provided by the D.C. Department of Labor.

D.C. government human services are clearly not reaching neighborhoods most in need of them, since three-quarters of low income area residents had not used such services in the last six months. Human service users have a higher opinion of the services than the general neighborhood population, but nevertheless over 40% of recent users rated their quality only "fair" to "very poor".

The usage that low income area citizens make of D.C. government human services tends to reflect their opinion of them. Housing and employment counseling are both lowest rated and least used. Only approximately half of low income neighborhood citizens approved of and use, D.C. health services. Less than a third of recent human service users (12% of respondents overall) seek public assistance (AFDC) from the D.C. Department of Human Resources.

Citizen dissatisfaction with, and reluctance to use, D.C. government human services centers around the length of time it takes to receive them...a perceived lack of courtesy and respect when they apply for them...and/or lack of knowledge that the services exist and they are entitled to them.

With respect to these preceeding human service delivery problems, low income area residents appear to want priority attention to be given to low income housing maintenance and employment counseling services, followed by health and welfare services from the D.C. Department of Human Resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Taking into consideration the public service priorities and problems of low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia, the Washington Urgan League recommends:

- That the District government have the needs of low income citizens systematically, periodically and comprehensively surveyed, in order to establish priorities for allocating municipal resources, and to provide data for the preparation of budget requests by municipal human service agencies. To the extent that human service budgets today are based on projections from client use rather than the actual needs of low income District residents, they build in continuing constraints against service improvements and discourage efforts to urge more citizens to use them.

- That a Council for Low Income Neighborhood Revitalization be established as an advisory body to the D.C. City Council, with budgeted staff and the mandate to translate ascertained neighborhood needs into public policy recommendations for legislative action by the D.C. City Council. The advisors should be broadly representative of the public and private sectors, consumers and providers, and bring recognized expertise in the areas of housing, manpower development, health, criminal justice, social welfare, education and transportation.

- That public information on human services available from District agencies be increased, systematized and coordinated...budgeted for significant outreach through Rights Information Centers in low income neighborhoods...available in Spanish as well as English...and accompanied by creation of a "Human Service Hot-Line" referring citizen inquiries to appropriate sources of assistance.

- That the D.C. Department of Human Resources launch an extensive personnel retraining program under contract to an external professional organization, with two principle goals: 1) the development of more professional, efficient practices among human service workers, and 2) the broadening and strengthening of workers' advocacy functions. At whatever point of contact with clients --whether for jobs, housing, income security services, health or education -- intake should include an overall assessment of clients' total needs in a family context; and workers should be able to make appropriate referrals and follow them up.

TABLE 7. LOW INCOME AREA ATTITUDES TOWARD D.C. PUBLIC SERVICES
(By Race)

SOS '78 --
SPEAK OUT FOR SURVIVAL!

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
7.1 Respondents' ratings of D.C. government services						
Health Services						
Very good	25	(10)	20	(11)	2	(6)
Good	83	(35)	61	(34)	15	(42)
Fair	70	(29)	49	(27)	12	(33)
Poor	37	(15)	30	(17)	4	(11)
Very poor	25	(10)	19	(11)	3	(8)
Total	240	(99)	179	(100)	36	(100)
Housing Upkeep/Maintenance Services						
Very good	13	(5)	9	(5)	3	(8)
Good	31	(12)	21	(11)	7	(17)
Fair	70	(27)	46	(24)	18	(45)
Poor	92	(35)	72	(37)	6	(15)
Very poor	54	(21)	46	(23)	6	(15)
Total	260	(100)	194	(100)	40	(100)
Fire Protection Services						
Very good	46	(17)	34	(17)	8	(19)
Good	111	(41)	81	(41)	20	(46)
Fair	54	(20)	41	(20)	10	(23)
Poor	36	(13)	28	(14)	-	-
Very poor	23	(9)	16	(8)	5	(12)
Total	270	(100)	200	(100)	43	(100)
Employment Counseling Services						
Very good	6	(3)	4	(3)	2	(7)
Good	27	(14)	17	(11)	6	(21)
Fair	47	(24)	36	(24)	8	(29)
Poor	79	(40)	56	(38)	10	(36)
Very poor	39	(19)	35	(24)	2	(7)
Total	198	(100)	148	(100)	28	(100)
Garbage/Trash Collection Services						
Very good	38	(13)	32	(15)	3	(6)
Good	105	(37)	79	(37)	18	(40)
Fair	71	(25)	49	(23)	14	(31)
Poor	39	(14)	30	(14)	5	(11)
Very poor	30	(11)	22	(10)	5	(11)
Total	283	(100)	212	(99)	45	(99)

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Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

TABLE 7. CONTINUED
(By Race)

QUESTIONS	TOTAL		BLACK		LATINO	
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)
7.2 Have you or a family member used D.C. government human services in the last six months?						
Yes	76	(28)	62	(30)	7	(15)
No	200	(72)	143	(70)	39	(85)
Total	276	(100)	205	(100)	46	(100)
If yes, which ones?						
City hospital/clinic	51	(49)	40	(46)	5	(50)
Employment counseling	13	(12)	12	(14)	1	(10)
Public assistance	32	(30)	27	(31)	3	(30)
Help to find new housing	9	(9)	8	(9)	1	(10)
Total	105	(100)	87	(100)	10	(100)
7.3 Service Users' ratings of the quality of D.C. government human services						
Very good	13	(17)	12	(20)	1	(14)
Good	31	(41)	27	(44)	3	(43)
Fair	19	(25)	12	(20)	2	(29)
Poor	7	(9)	6	(10)	-	-
Very poor	5	(7)	4	(6)	1	(14)
Total	75	(99)	61	(100)	7	(100)
7.4 When applying for human services from D.C. government agencies, are you treated with courtesy and respect?						
Yes	98	(42)	74	(43)	13	(37)
No	79	(34)	61	(35)	9	(23)
Never applied	58	(24)	38	(22)	16	(40)
Total	235	(100)	173	(100)	40	(100)
7.5 Do you know the different types of D.C. government human services to which you are entitled?						
Yes	90	(31)	70	(33)	7	(15)
No	117	(40)	60	(28)	20	(42)
Some	82	(28)	85	(39)	21	(43)
Total	289	(99)	215	(100)	48	(100)
7.6 After you applied for D.C. government human services, how long did it take to receive them?						
Week or less	20	(20)	16	(21)	3	(19)
One/two weeks	16	(16)	9	(12)	4	(25)
Four weeks or more	51	(50)	40	(51)	7	(44)
Don't know	15	(14)	13	(16)	2	(12)
Total	102	(100)	78	(100)	16	(100)

Percent rounded off to integers.
Data in the "total" column includes all races and ethnic groups.

XII: APPENDIX A: DETAILED METHODOLOGY

SOS '78 presents findings from a door-to-door survey of 300 heads of households randomly sampled in six major low income neighborhoods of the District of Columbia on Saturday, June 3, 1978 and Tuesday, June 6, 1978. Covering nine U.S. Census tracts, the sample included the areas known as "Adams Morgan", "Mt. Pleasant", "the 14th Street Corridor", "Northeast Capital Hill", "Old Uniontown" (Anacostia) and "Fort Stanton" (Anacostia).

The U.S. Census tracts surveyed included #27.02, 38, 39 and 40 in Adams Morgan and Mt. Pleasant...#29 and 36 in the 14th Street Corridor...#80.1 in Northeast Capital Hill...and #74.2 and 75.1 in Anacostia.

The survey sought a total of 300 interviews: 250 households in the predominantly black neighborhoods of Anacostia,Northeast Capital Hill and the 14th Street Corridor...and a supplemental sample of 50 households in the multi-ethnic (Latino) neighborhoods of Adams Morgan and Mt. Pleasant.

The target population was determined by the agency's mission to serve low income blacks and Latinos in the Washington metropolitan area. The following operational definitions appplied: Income Level -- Family units having a combined annual income at or below the Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimated "lower" minimum annual budget for an urban family of four ($10,481, Autumn, 1977)...Ethnic Group -- Self-reporting black and Latino (persons of Hispanic origin) individuals...Family Unit -- One or more related or unrelated individuals occupying a single housing unit.

Sampling Strategy

The U.S. Census tracts were selected according to race, employment and income criteria. The eligibility criteria for selection were: First, at least a 90% black population according to the 1970 Census...Second, an area designated as having high unemployment according to the Census Employment Survey...and Third, areas with median family incomes at or below the federal "lower" minimum budget for an urban family of four ($10,481, Autumn, 1977). It was anticipated that "total" household income might be higher, and that a study of low income neighborhoods would include moderate or middle income households.

After the identification of the nine U.S. Census tracts, blocks within them were randomly selected by every third block within a census tract, with the remaining blocks designated as "back-up blocks" should additional sampling be needed. Thereafter a pre-survey of housing stocks occurred. Every house on each block (both survey and "back-up") in each census tract was counted...its occupied household units determined...addresses taken of all multi-family dwellings...and beginning and ending addresses of every block also taken. Commercial, industrial, institutional, unoccupied or abandoned housing were also enumerated. Apartment managers were identified and their permission sought to survey large, locked apartment buildings.

On survey day interviewers with assignments by census tract, neighborhood, block and multi-family housing unit...with instructions to randomly select every third household in their assigned areas...administered the 34-page questionnaires to the target population. All households in each of the census tracts had an equal chance of being selected regardless of race, income or other characteristics of head of household.

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire was developed by the Washington Urban League Research Office, with assistance by research consultants Robert Beasley, Dr. James McGhee and Thomas R. O'Neal. Written in both English and Spanish, the 34-page document took approximately 45 minutes to administer. It was divided into seven sections: Housing, Education, Economic

Development, Crime, Public Services, Transportation and Demographics.

Respondents were required to answer all seven sections, but not every question in each section. For example in the Housing section there were questions for homeowners only, or renters only. The questionnaire was administered solely by trained interviewers and all data were collected anonymously and in strict confidence. Neither names nor addresses were recorded on the instruments.

Pre-Field Procedures

During the eight-week period prior to survey day a number of other activities took place more or less simultaneously:

- Definition and acquisition of logistical support needs, including two field headquarters, supplies and forms, meals, transportation, communications and medical support;

- Recruitment and training of 163 volunteers, including interviewer trainers;

- Recruitment and training of a nine-member Editorial Committee to ensure completion of survey instruments from the field;

- Establishment of coding, tabulation and data processing procedures, and training of six coders to prepare instruments for keypunching;

- Efforts to predispose residents to participate in the survey.

Community participation in SOS '78 was substantial. Community members and representatives of public and private agencies serving low-income minorities were invited to help identify low income neighborhood concerns which served as a guide to questionnaire development. Community volunteers also served as interviewers and escorts, translators for the Spanish version of the questionnaire, field pre-surveyors, interviewer trainers, zone controllers, drivers, nurses, editors, coders, child care specialists, assemblers, receptionists, hostesses, flyer/poster distributors, and general assistants.

The SOS '78 volunteer interviewers were recruited from the community at large and were black or Latino residents, many from low income neighborhoods. Each interviewer was required to attend four-hour afternoon or evening training sessions which included formal presentations, small group training and rigorous role play in which experienced interviewers were used as models. Interviewers received training in sensitivity interviewing techniques, the use of the questionnaire sampling techniques, question clarification and general field procedures.

A number of agencies provided assistance to SOS '78 including the Opportunities Industrialization Center (O.I.C.), Deaf Pride, Inc., Friendship House, the D.C. Department of Recreation, the D.C. Public Schools (Street Academies), Bethlehem Baptist Church, Spanish Educational Development Center and the Literacy Action Program.

Extensive efforts to establish the seriousness of SOS '78, explain its purpose and let residents know the survey was coming to particular neighborhoods, began three weeks before field operations. Fifteen hundred letters were mailed to city-wide decision-makers, and fifty to neighborhood leaders including pastors and long-time block residents. A press release sought and obtained news coverage in black weeklies, biweeklies and metropolitan dailies...on three "soul" and four white radio stations...and on four TV stations.

All public survey materials, especially those used on survey day, were bilingual and designed to look alike, attract attention and create an "official" impression. Armbands, identification badges, kits, letters of introduction, confidentiality statements and "thank you" letters containing agency commitments regarding use of the information, reinforced interviewers' efforts to establish doorstep credibility. A careful effort was made to place 500 English or Spanish posters at every intersection, and 10,000 English or Spanish flyers on occupied doorsteps within the nine U.S. Census tracts. Because of the elaborate pre-survey of housing stocks this was accomplished by teams of drivers and some 30 volunteers two days before the survey. SOS '78 reached all potential survey households at least once, and actual survey households twice. Coding, keypunching, data processing and analysis of the findings took place over a six month period ending in August, 1978, using the computer facilities of Afro American Datanamics.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are the product of the SOS '78 Steering Committee, other Washington Urban League staff and selected community leaders and consultants.

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XIII: APPENDIX B: SOS '76 -- BACKGROUND TO SURVEY CONTENT

SOS '78 "dimensionalized" key problems and priorities of low income citizens of the District of Columbia identified three years earlier by SOS '76. The present study sought to obtain greater detail on low income neighborhood needs in selected subject areas...data designed for immediate use by public and private decision-makers to solve known problems, created needed programs and make specific investments.

In very fundamental ways, SOS '76 determined which aspects of low income neighborhood difficulty should be studied more closely. An SOS '76 perspective on SOS '78 findings is therefore provided in this appendix, accompanied by data highlights from the earlier study.

In SOS '76 respondents ranked their overall problems in order of importance to them:

#1 -- High Cost of Goods and Services/Not Enough Places to Shop
#2 -- Housing
#3 -- Crime
#4 -- Child Care
#5 -- Unemployment/Underemployment
#6 -- Education (priority tied with#5)
#7 -- Health
#8 -- Welfare/Other Social Aid
#9 -- Local Government
#10 -- Discrimination

The nuts-and-bolts order of citizen priorities suggested the immediacy of low income neighborhood survival needs, with for example "Discrimination" ranked less important than the problems of family nurture on low incomes. An unexpected priority emerged from other questions in the survey: TRANSPORTATION proved a key source of difficulty in regard to purchasing power, unemployment, child care and local government. This became one of the first subjects earmarked for deeper study in SOS '78.

Low income neighborhood's PURCHASING POWER problems predictably related to inflation. But for local problem-solving it was significant that citizens felt handicapped by the lack of supermarkets in their neighborhoods, the higher cost of local food stores, and inadequate transportation to get to shops where prices were cheaper. As low wage earners particularly crippled by inflation, citizens were also being cut off from access to normal consumer choices and bargaining powers -- and as a result had to spend a disproportionate amount of time and money on limited budgets to get less. Most reported cutbacks in essential spending for food, heat and clothing.

The new survey, SOS '78, sought to confirm the impact of inflation and inadequate local shopping options on low income neighborhoods, but focused on the "access" issue with regard to public transportation. It was felt that the buying power -- and jobs -- obtained by improved transportation opportunities would most immediately free citizens' wherewithal for the improvement and maintenance of family life, homes and neighborhoods.

SOS '76 TRANSPORTATION DATA

Of low income area respondents:

- 69% did not own a car, but 37% took a private car to the supermarket -- which suggested car pooling since only 31% of respondents owned cars.

- 50% took a bus, car or taxi to the supermarket...50% walked...and 55% took fifteen minutes or longer to get to the supermarket.

- 79% thought they could buy goods and services at less cost outside their neighborhoods.

- 64% said their local stores did not offer a large amount of products.

- 62% took a bus (58%) or taxi (4%) to work.

The SOS '76 finding that three-quarters of low income neighborhood residents were looking unsuccessfully for decent HOUSING, and despite a strong sense of neighborhood identification

thought better housing could be found elsewhere, proved to have been a prescription for the wildfire ease with which District real estate speculators later removed low income residents from old improving neighborhoods and sent them to new deteriorating ones. SOS '76 had identified the D.C. Landlord/Tenant Court, rent increases and landlord discrimination against families with children as critical issues, but did not try to define the market forces fostering housing displacement. SOS '78 looked in depth to pressures on renters and homeowners to move, at where they were going, and at corrective measures which might be taken to preserve neighborhoods for their residents.

SOS '76 HOUSING DATA

Of low income area respondents:

- 74% felt a part of their neighborhoods, but 65% would move out of their neighborhood if it were possible.

- 81% did not want to move out of the District of Columbia.

- 72% had difficulty getting an apartment due to expense or children.

- 34% had had to move at some time due to lack of repairs, rent increases or urban renewal.

- 71% knew of the D.C. Landlord/Tenant Court, but 84% had never used it.

- 50% of homeowners found utility costs and property taxes "a serious problem".

CRIME has been as important a reason for low income neighborhood deterioration as for middle income flight to the suburbs. SOS '76 found two-thirds of low income area residents daily walking in fear of crime. Yet the same residents were markedly ambiguous when recommending solutions to crime. While they were concerned about high crime rates, they were also concerned about fair court treatment of the accused. While they sought greater police involvement in their neighborhoods, they were also distrustful of police performance. While they blamed their neighbors for failing to fight crime, they were also willing to join anti-crime patrols and see halfway houses established in low income neighborhoods.

Since drugs and unemployment were said by SOS '76 respondents to be the chief causes of neighborhood crime, and these in turn became key sources of low income neighborhood deterioration, the new survey, SOS '78, studied both drug and unemployment problems.

But the central issue left unresolved by SOS '76 was whether low income residents preferred more short-range, stricter law enforcement -- or more long-range crime prevention activities -- as means to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. SOS '78 sought low income area citizens' opinion on this subject, and information on the specific kinds of crime prevention activities they considered efficacious.

SOS '76 CRIME DATA

Of low income area respondents:

- 65% were "generally afraid" of crime when walking down the street.

- 47% attributed crime to drugs (28%) or unemployment (19%), compared to poverty (13%), influence of friends (13%) or family background (10%).

- 93% called for greater cooperation between police and residents, but 72% said the police could do more to prevent crime and 54% said they would not come as fast as they could if called.

- 73% blamed citizen indifference (43%) and fear of personal safety (30%) as reasons why crime was not stopped in their neighborhoods, compared to 27% who blamed police corruption or unawareness of crime.

- 49% would join a community patrol or accept a halfway house in their neighborhood.

- 80% said low income people were unfairly treated by the D.C. Courts.

CHILD CARE ranked high as a problem in the opinion of SOS '76 respondents. Yet they reported adequate services from day care facilities available to them, and instead seemed to need more of them. SOS '76 had shown how the public and private sectors could act on this responsibility, and the data was thought sufficiently conclusive not to require further study in SOS '78.

In addition to extraordinarily high 29% UNEMPLOYMENT, SOS '76 found SUBEMPLOYMENT was a crisis in low income District neighborhoods. The study discovered a working poor population, with 57% of respondents employed in one or more jobs but 72% reporting incomes below the federal "lower" minimum budget for an urban family of four (study households averaged four persons). As solutions

to both unemployment and subemployment, respondents called for more job training, improved D.C. Employment Services and more jobs, particularly from the private sector.

SOS '78 therefore sought to particularize the job training experiences and available skills of unemployed and subemployed workers, to identify their job development preferences, and to determine attitudes toward the location of light industry and small business in their neighborhoods. But SOS '76 also suggested that the "discouraged worker" was a far more satistically significant phenomenon in low income neighborhoods than official unemployment estimates take into account. SOS '78 sought more accurate data on percentages of the workforce which are employed full-time, part-time or in more than one job...between jobs, not able to work or ready to work but unemployed...making use of various job hunting sources...and to offer alternatives to official data on unemployment.

SOS '76 EMPLOYMENT DATA

Of the 29% of low income area respondents who were unemployed and not retired on Social Security:

- 51% were no longer actively seeking work.
- 84% were not receiving unemployment compensation
- 71% had "never" received job training, and 55% wanted it
- 71% said the D.C. Employment Service was not helping them find a job
- 37% were unable to find jobs due to lack of training or experience
- 31% were unable to find jobs due to lack of available jobs.

Of the 57% of low income area respondents who were employed:

- 65% worked in the private sector.
- 81% had had no job training in the past two years.
- 55% had had no promotions or salary increases in the past two years.
- 31% were looking for work, and 10% had more than one job.

EDUCATION equalled unemployment as a priority concern among SOS '76 low income area citizens -- logically, since they had elsewhere linked job opportunity to improved job preparedness. Low income respondents said neighborhood children were not receiving quality education in the D.C. Public Schools, and particularly called for the kind of improved skills delivery in reading, writing, speaking and math which has since evolved as the "Back To Basics" thrust of the new School Superintendent.

Yet SOS '76 parents thought their neighborhood schools were "good" -- whereas the larger number of respondents including parents had said the school system was "not providing a quality education". A further finding showed 75% of respondents did not feel they had "the power to change how children are educated in this city". It seemed disaffection from public school education was being projected away from responsibilities for school improvement at the neighborhood level -- and the unanswered question was why?

Parental involvement in neighborhood schools was the outstanding issue requiring clarification in SOS '78...and the new survey made sure to elicit the attitudes of parents with children now enrolled in the public schools. SOS '78 involved an assumption that neighborhood schools which have strong parental involvement in the substance of their children's education, build healthier, more stable neighborhoods.

SOS '76 EDUCATION DATA

Of low income area respondents:

- 55% said D.C.P.S. was not providing a quality education.
- 75% said they did not have the power to change how children were educated.
- 54% of parents feared for their children's safety in school.
- 42% of parents said their children did not have a book and enough other materials for each class.
- 54% called for improved basic skills and job training in the public schools.
- 53% said parents were responsible for teaching children right from wrong.
- 61% said they had never been notified of any meetings or conferences in the schools, but 76% of those who were notified, went.

Further down SOS '76 respondents' list of

priorities, and widely separated from the above-mentioned subjects, one-tenth of low income area citizens viewed HEALTH (3%), WELFARE/-OTHER SOCIAL AID (2%), LOCAL GOVERN-MENT (2%) and DISCRIMINATION (2%) as their most pressing problem in central Washington, D.C. These were not considered priorities for SOS '78 study. The unexpected issue of TRANSPORTATION was taken up as has been previously mentioned.

Yet low income area District residents did indicate throughout SOS '76 a pervasive dissatisfaction with municipal services -- almost without exception and in whatever problem area they considered. In some cases the reasons were clear, in others not; but it was beyond the scope of any study to investigate all public service delivery problems. Recognizing that underfunding as well as poor management hampers a local government which must serve a 37% low income population...and at the same time believing that public service improvement is essential to the revitalization of low income neighborhoods...SOS '78 focused on municipal allocation of scarce resources to community needs. A final section of SOS. '78 sought low income area citizens' direction on the PUBLIC SERVICES they most wanted to see improved.

SOS '76 PUBLIC SERVICE DATA

Of low income area respondents:

- 91% (of the unemployed) said the D.C. Employment Service was not helping them find a job.

- 66% would not know where to go for family planning...64% for a drug problem...58% for a weekend dental emergency...49% for a drinking problem.

- 75% did not know the different types of social services to which they were entitled.

- 71% did not know if there was a mental health clinic in their area.

- 55% of those who applied for D.C. Social Services did not receive immediate help.